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VOLUME 1. MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1878.

WE HAVE been thinking, thinking, how best we could do a great deal of work in the least possible time, and present our readers with the greatest amount of information in the least space,—in short, how we might show a score or less of flowers on one page. “What need of so much haste, for the world was not made in a day?” True enough; but winter is coming, October is almost here, and it is not the longest of months, and then comes November, and with that month ends all our bulb planting at the North, and we have never presented a colored plate of a Tulip or Hyacinth, or any other of the beautiful Holland Bulbs, in the MAGAZINE, and we cannot let the year pass without a pretty full representation of this class of flowers.

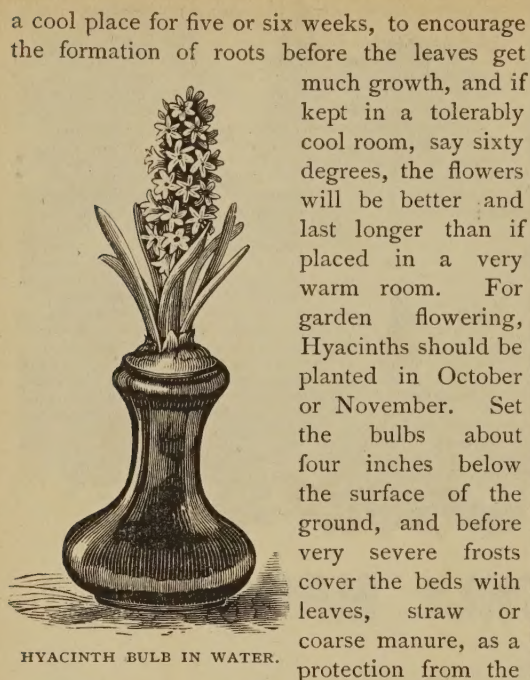
“You do not propose to cover the whole field of floriculture in one year, I suppose?” Not at all, Mr. WISEACRE; but we do propose to do all we can, and a good energetic effort is almost as good as faith. It accomplishes seeming impossibilities. “You will have to supplement your faith with considerable good works before you show a score or so of the flowers of bulbous plants on a page or two.” Quite true, but you will see the fruits of both thinking and working, if you have a little patience and a trifle of courtesy.

Kind reader, the result of our labor is before you. We have succeeded in presenting nine varieties of flowers on one plate, and will give

nine more with the November number. The size of the flowers have been necessarily reduced, but they are nearly perfect in form and color.

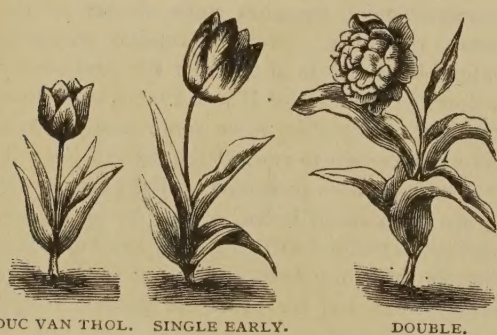
In countries where the winters are short and comparatively pleasant, Bulbs suitable for flowering in the house, and in fact all house plants, are of far less importance than in the North, where we have to endure five months of winter, which, though cheery enough at its commencement, becomes quite dreary as the months roll away. Nothing renders winter so endurable as a little of summer life and beauty in-doors in the form of House Plants, and none are more acceptable, none more easily grown and more certain to reward the care of the cultivator, than those produced by Bulbs, generally known as Holland Bulbs, a class by no means, however, confined to the house, as they make glorious flowering beds, blooming in the early spring, when but for them the garden would be bare of beauty.

The most popular, as also the most beautiful and fragrant of the bulbous flowers, is the *Hyacinth*, two varieties of which we have shown in our colored plate, a double red, and a single blue. It is cultivated in every northern country in the civilized world, and perhaps does more than any other flower to make winter cheerful, for it seems particularly adapted to house culture. It is easily grown in glasses of water or pots of earth. After planting keep Hyacinths in



changes of temperature. Freezing does not injure the bulbs, but continuous freezing and thawing often does mischief.

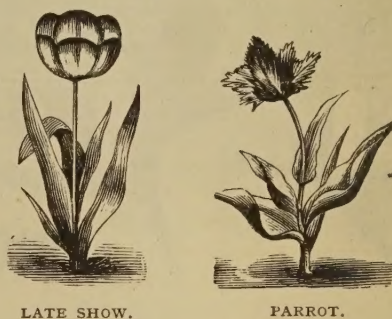
The *Tulip* is so perfectly hardy, accommodates itself to almost all conditions of soil and climate, is so varied and brilliant, and flourishes so well under ordinary care, that it never fails to give satisfaction. Any fair garden soil answers for the Tulip, but well rotted manure, decayed sods, surface soil from the woods, or from an old pasture, will be found of great benefit, especially if the garden beds are rather poor. As Tulips are planted in the autumn, and have to endure the autumn and spring rains



and the results of winter and spring thawing, care must be had to secure good drainage. Plant either in October or November, setting the bulbs about three inches below the surface. Give the beds a covering of leaves or coarse manure for winter protection. If moles or field mice are troublesome, do not put on the winter covering until the ground is well frozen.

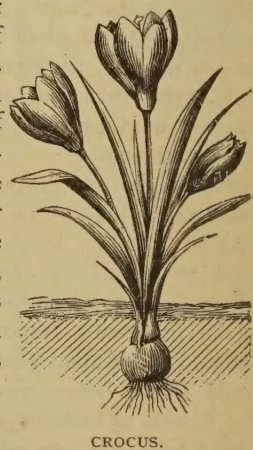
Our colored plate shows the four leading classes. The *Duc Van Thol* is a small, early

flowering sort, both single and double, that grows but about six inches in height. There are some six or seven varieties. They are excellent for pot culture. Of the *Single Early* there are hundreds of good sorts, and they are every way desirable, making beds of flowers unsurpassed for beauty and brilliancy. This class flowers in May and early in June, before the weather becomes very warm, and therefore keep in flower longer than later sorts. They are good for house culture. The *Double Tulips*



are becoming popular. While some sorts are small and of delicate tints of color, others are almost as large and as brilliant as *Pæonies*. The *Late* or *Show Tulips* are really the most superb of the family, having well-formed cups, and standing erect on strong, wiry stems. These are the favorites of Tulip fanciers the world over. The *Parrots* are curious in both form and color. The petals are long and loose, notched or fringed. Most varieties have several colors. They make an attractive bed.

The *Crocusses* are among the very earliest of our early spring flowers, beginning to throw up their leaves before the frost is gone, and in this latitude, in sheltered situations, will flower in March, though early April is the season of their greatest beauty. For a week or two, and until the flowering of the Hyacinth, the garden depends upon the Crocus almost alone for its brightness. Set the bulbs in the autumn, three or four inches apart, and cover with not less than two inches of earth. The Crocus flowers well in the house in winter; half a dozen in a little pot or basket of damp moss is a very pretty ornament. The bulbs may be planted within an inch of each other. They will flower in water like the Hyacinth. In fact these little Crocus bulbs can be used in almost any way.



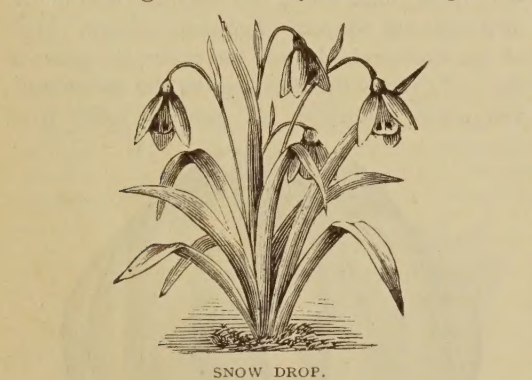
The *Autumn Crocus* is a very interesting flower on account of its curious nature. The leaves appear in the spring, but no flowers



AUTUMN CROCUS.

until late in the autumn, and then seed the next mid-summer. Plant the bulbs in the autumn, and they will usually flower at once; indeed, sometimes they will flower before being planted. Each bulb gives a cluster of flowers,

six or eight in number, and so persistent is it in its determination to flower that if taken up in the latter part of summer, before the time for flowering, and placed in a pot or basket of damp moss it will bloom as well as if left in the ground. Indeed, if placed upon a dry shelf it will even then flower tolerably well.



SNOW DROP.

spring. A few Crocuses may be scattered here and there about the lawn in the same manner; the effect is very fine, and gives a realizing sense of a *flowery carpet*, which we often read about. The variety shown in our colored plate is the Snow Flake or Large Snow Drop, being larger and more robust than the true Snow Drop, and later in flowering.

In the November number, which we shall try to have in the hands of our readers a few days before the usual time, we shall illustrate the Narcissus family and other bulbous flowers.

THE LILIES.

Although we have devoted much space recently to Lily culture, the subject does not yet seem to be quite exhausted, for besides the communication published in this number, and others somewhat similar for which we have



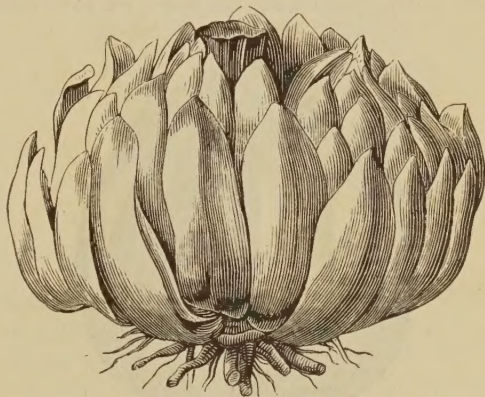
CANDIDUM.



EXCELSUM.

been unable to find room, we have received several inquiries as to the habits of the plants, form of bulbs, &c., which our friends will find briefly, yet we hope satisfactorily, answered by the facts and illustrations which we now give.

Some of our correspondents have shown, with a good deal of force, the risk of decep-



EXCELSUM.

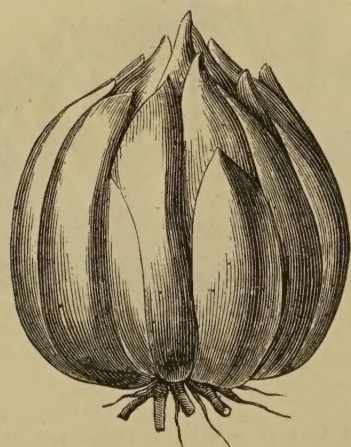
tion and loss to which persons are subjected who order Lily bulbs directly from Holland. There has been far too great a disposition in all parts of the world to give new names to old sorts, on the least variation as to color or habit. In a lot of imported Auratum Lilies there is found to be considerable difference in the flowers, some having a red band in the center of

each petal instead of a yellow one, as is most common. In some the spots will be large and of a deep red color; in others they are very small and indistinct, the flower being almost white. These variations have been seized upon



LANCIFOLIUM.

to make new sorts, which have been named and sold at very high prices. Different growers having taken the responsibility to give them names, of course the flower with the red band and the one with the delicate spots, would have several names. This variation, unfortunately perhaps, has not proved constant with us; for after carefully marking the bulbs we have often



LANCIFOLIUM.

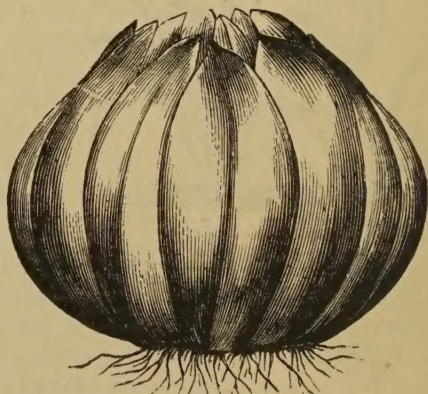
found the flower to have lost its peculiar markings the next season. We have never, therefore, felt justified in giving new names to any Lilies that may happen to vary from their original type, nor have we encouraged others to do so. Any one planting a dozen Auratum

Lilies dug from the mountains of Japan will find one or more of those red-banded kinds, which some florist has named *Auratum vitatum*, and which is recommended by our Le Roy correspondent. There is no more differ-



AURATUM.

ence between this and the ordinary Auratum than can be found in our Canadense, or any of our wild Lilies. We are very careful in recommending new Lilies without thorough trial, not only from these facts, but because few of the new sorts are adapted to general culture. Most of the California Lilies, for example, grow in the cool, shady canyons, up in the mountains, and when planted in our gardens suffer from



AURATUM.

the hot sun, the foliage burning, and after struggling for a year or two against adverse circumstances, yield up the contest and die.

Whatever of blame may be attached to this course, we are entitled to a share. The same varieties have been sent from California

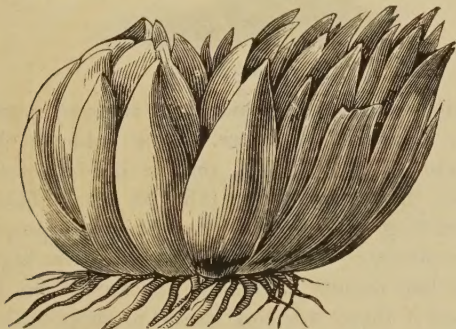
to Europe under many different names, on account of a supposed slight variation, or because found in different localities. In our FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN we thus alluded to this practice:—"The California Lilies we hardly



WASHINGTONIANUM.

dare to describe, although we have cultivated them for several years, because sometimes we have received several species under one name, and at other times what seemed to be one variety with a good many more names than it was entitled to." Desiring light, we wrote to one of the best botanists on the Pacific coast and a gentleman of undoubted honor, who replied in a letter full of indignation at the frauds that had been practiced by Californians upon purchasers at the East and in Europe. We give the mildest portions of this letter, suppressing names:—

DEAR SIR:—Acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter, permit me to state that I have looked with patience long enough upon a swindle carried on here with houses abroad. This fraud has gone as far as I am able to endure. Year after year the same bulbs are sent abroad under different names. *Lilium Washingtonianum*, collected on the coast, is sent to England as a new species, and given a new name. I assure you there are but four species of Lilies on this wide western coast. It is true they vary; but in no case sufficient to warrant a new name; and in no case is a reliable distinction to be made. Why is all this done? Simply to induce people to pay higher prices. In regard to ferns, the same outrage is practiced. Excuse me, Sir, for I am a stran-



BLOOMERIANUM OR HUMBERTII.

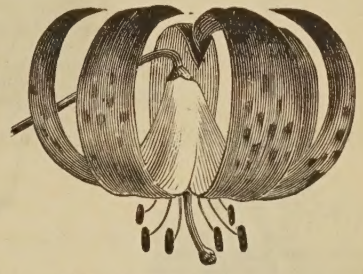
ger to you; but indignation pressed the pen into my hand. I cannot allow this outrageous swindle any longer.—H. N. B.

Of all the Lilies, the good old *Candidum* or common White Lily is still one of the very best. *Excelsum* is a fine variety, creamy buff; both

are four feet or more in height when in perfection. The *Lancifolium* varieties are among the best and most reliable of the family. The distinction between *Roseum* and *Rubrum* is very slight and should be abandoned, at least for the present. They grow about four feet in height. *Album* and *Rubrum* are both desirable. The *Auratum* is one of the most magnificent of Lilies, and we have it this season nearly six feet in height, bearing twenty flowers six inches in diameter. We are sorry to have to say it is not always reliable, as it often makes a fair start in the spring, and when the buds are growing and about to open, the lower leaves turn yellow and the plant dies down to the ground.



PARDALINUM.



Sometimes the next season it appears healthy, but in many cases the bulb decays.

Several of the California Lilies, as we have before observed, sometimes fail as soon as the weather becomes warm. Among these is the *Washingtonianum*. The leaves seem to burn, and the plant languishes through the remainder of the season. We have tried them among shrubbery, but with only partial success. It

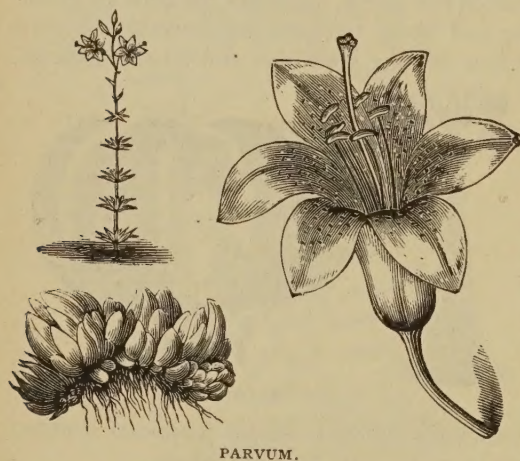


PARDALINUM.

does not succeed very well even in the gardens of California. We gave an engraving of this flower in the August number, and will now present only the curious bulb, which increases by prolongation of the bulb, and we have had them almost a foot in length. The flower is sometimes white when it opens, having very small purplish spots, but after being open a day becomes pinkish.

The *Bloomerianum* or *Humboldtii* is a very handsome Lily, color of a very clear, bright orange, almost transparent, spotted with large brownish spots, something like a small Tiger

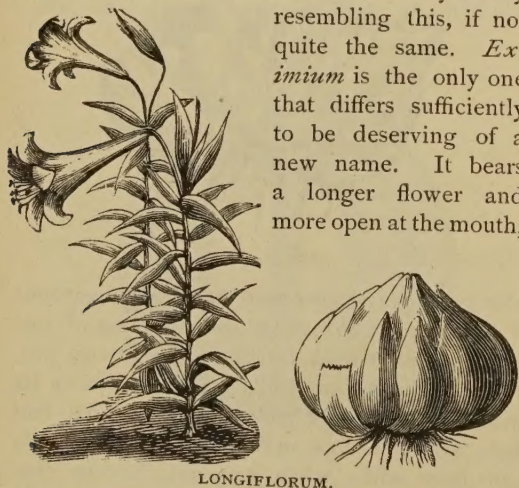
Lily but handsomer. It seems better adapted to our climate than the *Washingtonianum*, but is not entirely reliable. The flower of this we gave in the August number. *Pardalinum*, another California Lily, is a variety of *Canadense*, our wild Lily, but with some peculiarities. The yellow is lighter and the red more brilliant, and it is every way a prettier flower than either *Canadense* or *Superbum*; but these vary very much, and are improved by culture. Another pretty little California Lily is called *Parvum*. It is light buff in color, and the



PARVUM.

plant grows only about two feet in height. The size of the flowers and bulb we have shown in the engraving. It appears to be perfectly healthy.

The *Longiflorum* Lily is a beautiful trumpet shaped white flower, five or six inches in length. It is hardy and healthy. The bulbs are quite small. There are several varieties very nearly resembling this, if not quite the same. *Eximium* is the only one that differs sufficiently to be deserving of a new name. It bears a longer flower and more open at the mouth,

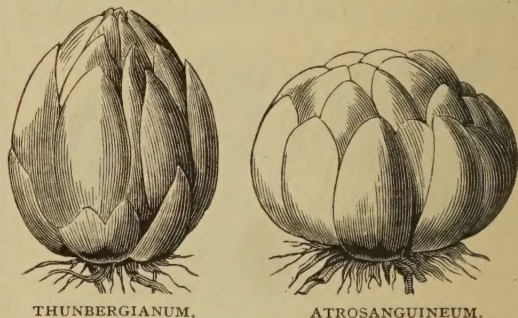


LONGIFLORUM.

and is perhaps a finer Lily; but the old *Longiflorum* is good enough, and when well grown is a beautiful, large, clear white flower.

Two excellent Lilies, and always sure to do well, are *Thunbergianum citrinum* and *Thunbergianum grandiflorum*. *Citrinum* is a dwarf

plant not more than a foot in height, with large citron yellow flowers, slightly spotted. It is a very fine dwarf Lily. *T. grandiflorum* bears large clusters of very dark red flowers, and



THUNBERGIANUM.

ATROSANGUINEUM.

grows two feet in height. Sometimes the clusters are very large. *Atrosanguineum* is another good common variety that always grows and flowers well, is perfectly healthy, and grows about thirty inches in height. The flowers are red, marbled with orange.

Among the many beautiful varieties of Lilies in cultivation none is more truly grand than the *Brownii*. The flower is trumpet shaped, more than six inches in length, and at the

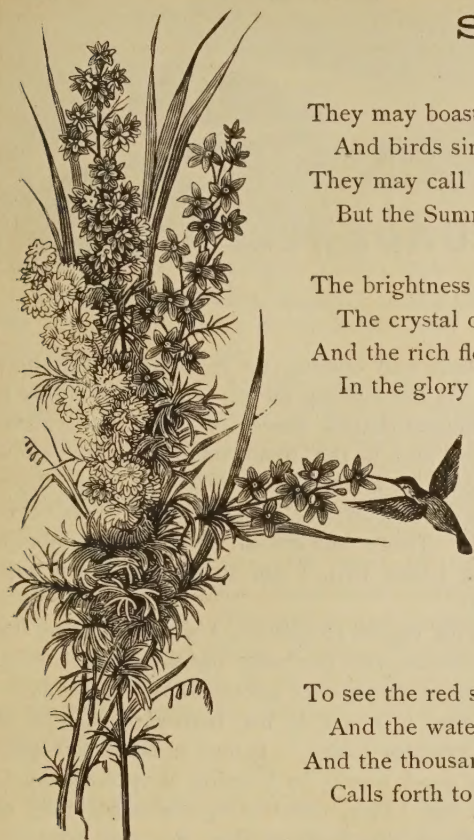


BROWNII.

mouth, where the petals are reflexed, some three inches in diameter. The color on the outside is a rich purple, on the inside a pearl white, the white of the reflexed petals finely contrasting with the purple. This Lily propagates poorly. Prices have always been high, some four dollars each, but this would not be so bad if there was any reason to suppose that the purchaser would get a bulb that would continue with him for a few years. Of the many plants brought to this country very few remain to-day. All alike perish.

In this rambling article we have answered a great many inquiries, and we hope to the satisfaction of inquirers.

SUMMER.



They may boast of the spring-time, when flowers are the fairest,
And birds sing by thousands on every green tree ;
They may call it the loveliest, the greenest, the rarest ;—
But the Summer's the season that's dearest to me !

The brightness of sunshine ; the depth of the shadows ;
The crystal of waters ; the fulness of green,
And the rich flowery growth of the old pasture meadows,
In the glory of Summer can only be seen.

Oh, the joy of the greenwood ! I love to be in it,
And list to the hum of the never-still bees,
And to hear the sweet voice of the old mother
linnet,
Calling unto her young 'mong the leaves of the
trees !

To see the red squirrel frisk hither and thither,
And the water-rat plunging about in his mirth ;
And the thousand small lives that the warm Summer weather
Calls forth to rejoice on the bountiful earth !

Then the mountains, how fair ! to the blue vault of heaven
Towering up in the sunshine, and drinking the light,
While adown their deep chasms, all splintered and riven,
Fall the far-gleaming cataracts, silvery white !

And where are the flowers that in beauty are glowing
In the garden and fields of young merry spring,
Like the mountain-side wilds of the yellow broom blowing,
And the old forest pride, the red wastes of the ling ?

And the garden, no longer 'tis leafless and chilly,
But warm with the sunshine, and bright with the sheen
Of rich flowers, the moss-rose and the bright tiger-lily,
Barbaric in pomp as an Ethiop queen.

The beautiful flowers, all colours combining,—
The larkspur, the pink, and the sweet mignonette,
And the blue fleur-de-lis, in the warm sunlight shining,
As if grains of gold in its petals were set !

Yes, the Summer, the radiant Summer's the fairest,
For greenwoods and mountains, for meadows and bowers,
For waters, and fruits, and for flowers the rarest,
And for bright shining butterflies, lovely as flowers !

MARY HOWITT.



MORE ABOUT LILIES.

In the August number of the MAGAZINE, I see Mr. GARNER has an excellent article on "Lilies." These flowers having been a specialty with me for a number of years, I wish not only to bear witness to some of his statements, but also to call attention to a few very good kinds which he does not mention, probably on account of their present scarcity.

I have had Lilies from many Dutch firms, and consequently I am qualified to offer the following hints to those wishing to import bulbs for themselves. For instance, *L. Cattanei* at \$5.00 and *L. Dalmaticum* at \$4.16 are one and the same thing. Do not order *L. Concolor* at \$0.52 and *L. Sinicum* at \$1.60, for you will have but one kind. Do not order *Buscheanum* at \$3.12, because in the same list you will find *L. Pulchellum* at \$1.25, and it is the same Lily. *L. Maximowiczii* at \$4.16, and *L. Pseudo Tigrinum* at \$12.50 differ only in name and price; and any one wishing for *L. Longiflorum Wilsonii* at \$1.66 can get two splendid bulbs of the same variety for the same money, of JAMES VICK, with the immense advantage of having them fresh and strong. This I know, because I have tried it. It is mentioned in his list as *L. Eximium*. No one should order foreign Lily bulbs without knowing exactly what they are about, unless they happen to be of that rare class of people who never get mad.

In addition to Mr. GARNER's list of desirable Lilies I would mention *L. Auratum Vittatum*, with a clear scarlet, instead of yellow band. This variety does well with me and is very grand, though on account of its extreme scarcity it will be many years before it can be sold at anything like a reasonable price. *L. Kramerii* is a very fine Lily, in habit much like *L. Auratum*, but is of a charming pink color, and is without spot or band. *L. Leichtlini* is a Martagon-shaped Lily from Japan, and is one of the best, being as easily grown as the old Tiger Lily. It is very graceful, of clear lemon color spotted with purple. The stalk of this Lily has a curious habit of growing away from

the bulb and coming up in some place where you are not looking for it. *L. Neilgherrense* is a trumpet-shaped flower of a peculiar yellow color, and is the handsomest of the yellow Lilies. It is hardy with me. *L. Pulchellum* is an erect scarlet Lily, is hardy and very beautiful. Those who are so fortunate as to obtain these Lilies will, I am sure, be pleased with them.

With regard to culture, I would say that my experience with the bulbs has taught me a rule, which in my practice admits of no exception,—and that is never to use barn-yard manure of any kind for Lilies. It may in some soils produce good results by keeping it open and mellow, but Lilies, constituting the aristocracy of the floral kingdom, as they do, will not,—by reason of their natural formation,—voluntarily partake of the musty food supplied by barn-yard manure, because well rotted leaves or sod contains their only proper and natural food. If a little thought will not demonstrate this, a little experience is sure to do so.—E. HUFTLEN, *Le Roy, N. Y.*

CLIMBING PLANTS.

Recurring to the subject of Climbers, something might be said, in addition to the information already afforded by your recent numbers, if it were only to establish in the minds of your readers the difference between the Virginian Creeper, or *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, and the poisonous Creepers, called Ivies. The former is almost too well known to require description in detail, a well marked characteristic being that the leaves or leaflets, oblong-lanceolate and palmately divided, are five in number; and it should be particularly noted that no native vine with a five-parted leaf is poisonous.

The so called Poison Ivy is a very ornamental, but highly dangerous plant. It is not properly an Ivy, as it belongs to the Sumach family, and is known to botanists as the *Rhus Toxicodendron*. It presents itself all over the country, climbing trees and covering stumps, and in several varieties so nearly alike that an

ordinary observer would not notice any difference between them. The leaflets are variously notched and lobed, and sometimes entire, but always *three in number*; and although I am inclined to think, from actual and painful experiments, that some of the forms are harmless, yet I would suggest the avoidance of all the creepers having that number of leaflets. A peculiarity of this *Rhus Toxicodendron* is that the juice which it exudes is milky, and makes an indelible black stain on linen. The sap of the Virginian Creeper is not milky, and does not affect fabrics at all.

R. venenata is another member of this treacherous family, differing, however, from the preceding in form and habit, and still more malignant in its effects. The usual remedy is a solution of sugar of lead with laudanum applied locally. The latest practice, however, is an application of bromine and sweet oil to the parts affected, and this I have used myself with excellent results. The *Ampelopsis Veitchii* is very distinct from all the above. The correct name of this plant is *A. tricuspidata*, with three-lobed leaves not divided.—R. O'HARA, *Chatham, Ont.*

THE MINISTRY OF FLOWERS.

Some one said, with propriety and poetic feeling, that flowers are "the alphabet of the angels." One need not have the foresight and vision of a prophet, to see the present and prospective influence of the "darlings of the sun" upon the human race. Their color, symmetry and fragrance attract the eye, delight the sense of smell, and kindle the taste for the beautiful.

The flowers are teachers that I love;
Their petals I have often read.
Their blossoms look to Heaven above;
Their roots point to the sleeping dead.

A few radiant buds and blossoms may cheer a sad and weary soul like a sunbeam in an unlighted room, like an oasis in a desert, like the smiles on faces we love, like the soft speech of hearts uttered by faithful friends.

A pot or a box of flowers in a city window contributes to the happiness of all who see them, [shall I say?] with esthetic eyes. Such sweet messengers belong to the garden of Eden, and the incense of fragrance which ascends from their swaying censer cups, has a tendency to sweeten not only the atmosphere, but the very nature of the occupants of the house, though it happens to be the humblest tenement. A *Heliotrope* has a greater charm than a horse-shoe, to keep away evil spirits. A distinguished divine said that a Rose is the autograph of God. His signature, in the house or in the garden, is a benediction of sweetness and beauty. When

I see a garden in a great city I am reminded of Joseph's coat of many colors bestowed by a loving Father upon a favorite child. I should be surprised beyond expression to see angry and vice-smitten faces in apartments decorated with flowers.—GEORGE W. BUNGAY.

A' HORTICULTURAL BLACKSMITH.

I am a blacksmith by trade, and live on a small place. My wife and I think a great deal of flowers, and for the last three years we have tried to see what we could do towards raising some. We have had a good many failures, and a few successes. Last year the *Asters* and *Petunias* were just splendid, and in the fall I took up eight or ten of the handsomest *Petunias* and cut them back and put them in a box that would just set in one of the windows,—say about three and one-half inches deep, four inches wide, and two and one-half feet long. They bloomed all winter, and at one time I counted over two hundred blooms; this spring I cut them down and set them out in the bed; they have bloomed all summer and were the handsomest we had.

I took a pattern of that bed of Foliage plants shown in your MAGAZINE last spring. My sister sent me some *Caladium* and *Canna* bulbs, and now I have splendid bed,—three *Castor Beans* in the center, then nine *Cannas*, then ten *Caladiums*, thirty two *Coleas* for the fourth circle, and thirty-five *Dusty Millers* for the outside circle. I think some of having a picture taken; if I do I will send you one, so you may see how well I have done for the first time. In your next number please tell me how to keep *Caladium* bulbs.—W. H. C. L., *Shirley Village, Mass.*

We have all heard of Learned Blacksmiths, and there is no reason why we should not have good gardeners among the hardy sons of this useful calling. Indeed, one of the prettiest little gardens and orchards we ever saw was owned and cared for by a blacksmith in the western part of Canada. It was a good many years ago, and we have almost forgotten the location, but it was somewhere in the neighborhood of Paris or Princeton. *Caladium* bulbs must be kept dry and cool, and secure from frost.

THE DATURA.—MR. VICK:—I will tell you about a *Datura Wrightii* that I planted three years ago, which is now in bloom for the third time. The root has lived in the ground summer and winter without any extra care, showing that it is perfectly hardy, and it is over four feet in height and nearly six feet across. Every night it has from six to thirteen blossoms on it that fill the air with fragrance. I have two beds of *Pansies* that have been full of blossoms since last march. My other flowers are doing well.—L. B., *Wales Centre, N. Y.*

GARDENING FAR NORTH.

MR. JAMES VICK:—*Dear Sir*:—Seeing that so many people write you of their success with seeds, flowers etc., it is not strange that you should be able to give some valuable information to all readers of your MONTHLY on almost every subject connected with floriculture. You must be quite full of knowledge, ready to burst, and, in order to hasten the explosion, I will bore you with a little of my experience.

I live, as you see above, in Michigan; but Republic is a mining location away up north, on Lake Superior, where it is not safe to set out bedding plants till the 20th of June, and the thermometer often stands below zero for three or four months at a time. So you see that anything like success with plants or flowers in this climate means incessant care and watchfulness. Notwithstanding all this, I believe Lake Superior can turn out as many amateur florists as any other part of our country. It is hard to find a cabin, be it ever so lowly, that has not some window or windows devoted to old cans, boxes, or pots, anything that will hold a plant, and your heart would rejoice could you see, as I have during a twenty years residence at various points on this Lake, how, and in what unlikely places, some of your pets thrive. Now, then, seeing that you are waking up a little at the mention of pets, I will stop philosophizing and get down to dry experience, and in giving this I had better confine myself to this one season, or I shall have to afflict you with a continued article.

The last week in April I prepared a seed-bed about six feet square. Some cedar logs were handy, which I cut the proper length, and they did well for the sides of my bed. I then took some old battens and laid them crosswise on their edges, thus making about twenty-five divisions. Your CATALOGUE showed me what plants could be transplanted. The result is that I now have about a hundred plants each of double Daisies, Pansies, Heddewigii and Japan Pinks, besides an abundance of Phlox, Stocks, Snap Dragon, Celosia, and many others. The Pinks have been gorgeous since the 10th of August, while the Phlox, Stocks, Pansies, and Daisies have been in flower since the middle of July. I wish you could see a Daisy and a Pansy that luxuriates on the shady side of a Geranium. The Daisy, a pure white, has averaged twenty blossoms at a time for the last month; the Pansy, a dark purple, the same. A Double Petunia that flowered in the house early in the spring, was put out of doors on the north side of the house, and has had an average of fifty blossoms, a perfect picture the last two months. My Fuchsias, which were treated

in the same manner, are now four feet high, and have been the admiration of passers-by all summer.

Seeing a notice of yours on page twenty-nine of your Catalogue, respecting Hardy Climbers, and wishing to see how they looked, I enclosed ten cents each for a package of Virgin's Bower, Bitter Sweet, and Virginia Creeper. I sowed the seed all in the same box, two rows each, and kept it shady and moist for about six weeks. Just as I was about to give up in despair the Clematis showed signs of life, and pretty soon I had forty Clematis, six Virginia Creepers, and two Bitter Sweet plants. Not a bad showing. They are now about six inches high. We do not have a plant in the house in the summer. The beds, and a shady, sheltered situation out of doors, are more congenial to plant life than the close, dusty atmosphere of the most favored room, during the hot months of summer.

I should not have given this experience, only that it may assist you in encouraging those who think their climate and surroundings such as to discourage any attempt at plant culture. I have made rather an interesting preparation for winter, which I may give you at some other time. My latitude is $46\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north. The children brought the sods and soil for the beds, which are situated on a dry, gravelly hill, where the sun has full play, and the winds roam at pleasure. Stakes for support, and old boxes and boards for shelter, have played no unimportant part in bringing to perfection one of God's greatest blessings to the humble—innocent, beautiful, lesson-teaching flowers.—J. N., *Republic, Mich.*

SOME WILD FLOWERS.

The first plant that I became scientifically acquainted with is the *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, or common Blood-root. It is one of the first flowers in the spring, and blooms for six weeks in succession. Its yellow juice is useful to the ornamental penman in the woods, for the purpose of interlining. Its single white flower vies with the Crocus in beauty, though it lacks fragrance.

The *Aquilegia Virginiensis* or wild Columbine, with its endless profusion of pendant blossoms, will do as a substitute for the Fuchsia where the latter cannot be obtained. It can be made to bloom for a long time, or during the whole summer, by sowing the seed at intervals of three or four weeks in the spring.

And last, but not least, I will mention in this short essay the *Ranunculus bulbosus* or Buttercup, whose pure color brings to my mind visions of golden corn, golden butter, golden chariots, and golden weddings.—RESH.

"SHOWY AND SWEET."

"Considering how hard you work, your garden makes very little show. Mrs. B's front yard is a perfect blaze of color,—quite a contrast to yours. What is the reason?" That was the feather that broke the camel's back. I had worried not a little over the general effect of my garden at mid-summer, but when *Satirica* gave words to my own thoughts I flared up and gave her a "piece of my mind." But after thinking the matter over coolly and apologizing to *Satirica* for my hasty words, like all the rest of the world I come to Dr. VICK for comfort and counsel.

What is the reason? I have no difficulty at any time from April till November in gathering enough flowers to make a nosegay, but there are always bare spots and failures. As to Mrs. B's garden, I took a walk around that way just to see what it was like, for in the spring, and even so late as the first of June, it looked more like a potato patch than a flower garden. But lo, and behold! it was as *Satirica* had said, a perfect blaze of color. And this effect had been produced by very little effort in comparison with my constant and pains-taking labor. There were not a half dozen species in the whole collection,—just great beds full of scarlet *Geraniums* and *Phlox Drummondii*, and great bunches of perennial *Phlox* at intervals. You could not have made a bouquet to save your life, for there was not a white flower in the whole lot—not a sprig of *Mignonette*, nor a bit of greenery fit to pluck. But the whole effect was dazzling; there were no breaks in the beds, no spotty places,—all was bright and blooming.

Now, I do not covet Mrs. B's glowing flower beds, but I would like to know how to keep my garden always in bloom, and to be "showy and sweet" at the same time, as Lily says in "The Three Little Spades." (By the way, what a charming little book that is! sweet and pure as the three flowers—*Primrose*, *Clover* and *Lily*,—that give their names to the little owners of the spades.) There are my *Pansy* beds, for example; they were a daily joy for three months, but see how shabby they look now. One bed has not a single bloom, but is done up in dry grass; the other two have each a few straggling blossoms. These beds are in a very conspicuous position, for they must be near at hand so that we can enjoy them at all hours; and they must be on the north side of the house, and that happens to be the front. Then in the curved border, partly surrounding these little beds, how few flowers there are! The *Columbines* are gone, the *Chrysanthemums* have not come, the *Snappedragons* are so late it seems as if they wanted to become trees

before they bloomed, the *Adonis* has so few flowers it makes no show, the *Canterbury Bells* would not bloom at all this year, and the *Balsams* are all poor. But the *Brides'-wreath* is lovely,—so cool and pure-looking it rests your eyes on a hot day; and the clump of *Sweet Peas* at the end is a mass of white and purple and rose. Then down in the grass the bed of *Phlox Drummondii* is very brilliant. There are not two plants exactly alike, but most of them have more or less white; one is pure white with pink eye, some are a lovely rose color with dark eyes, and all together the bed is a success.

But here is the *Nemophila* all gone to seed, and yonder is a *Verbena* bed with one solitary truss of bloom, and the plants stand straight up like sticks, and wont bloom, nor grow, nor die, but just aggravate me until I am tempted to pull them up and throw them away. I would if I had anything to replace them with. Here is a trellis of *Nasturtiums* doing their part bravely towards making a "show," and they have my thanks publicly expressed, for their curtain of green and gold and flame-colored embroidery is splendid. We will stop here; you have some idea of the trouble, and now, Doctor, for the remedy.—JENNY DARE.

Here we have the two extremes, two systems of gardening—the one furnishing brilliant beds, perfect for a few weeks in summer, with scarcely a flower for cutting; the other giving an abundance of sweet flowers for the table and for all kinds of bouquets, from early spring until frost, the beds, however, having a somewhat ragged and untidy appearance. What you need is a little of both plans, say a few beds of *Geraniums*, foliage plants and such things, just for a permanent show in the garden, or if these are not to be had, a bed of *Petunias* or *Phlox Drummondii*. This is the parlor part of the garden, and this parlor must be carpeted with green—a nice velvet carpet, of course. Then you want the living room garden, where you can walk and talk, and cut the flowers and do just as you like, and invite your friends to do the same. There you must have flower beds that will be gorgeous for a week or two, and supply the whole neighborhood with deliciously fragrant and beautiful flowers, and pass away to give place to another kind which will be the point of attraction for a time. This change is interesting, and we seldom visit the living garden without meeting a pleasant surprise—some unexpected greeting from a loved flower. Back of this we must have the kitchen garden with its sweet herbs, and its *Corn*, *Tomatoes*, *Melons*, and other good things.

KEEPING TENDER BULBS.—As it is about time to take up tender bulbs, or will be very soon, I wish to say to any of your readers who have *Cannas* or *Caladiums* that they can save the roots perfectly, by simply drying them well and then storing them in a dry, cool place, out of the way of frost, of course. I have kept mine in an upper room, in a barrel surrounded with straw. Before I learned this I lost many by keeping them warm and damp.—S. J.

THE TIGRIDIA.

MR. VICK :—I see in your catalogue that the flowers of the Tigridia are four inches across. The one I planted last spring is a curiosity to all that have seen it. So far it has had four blossoms, and they averaged seven inches across. Yesterday myself and two of my neighbors measured one and it was more than seven inches across. This may seem incredible, but it is so. We struck a seven inch circle on paper, cut it through, and put on



the flower, and a little of each petal projected past the circle. There seems to be many more blossoms coming. One of my neighbors, who saw and measured the flower, says he must send for one. The one I have is the Pavonia.

The Zinnias are simply splendid; I have eleven shades from one packet of seeds. They are the most interesting, and to my notion, the prettiest summer flower out, and beats any Dahlia that I have.—I. N. F., Galesville, Oreg.

My Tigridia was splendid; it was the wonder of the town. It had eight blossoms from one root. The flowers measured six inches across. They looked like a beautiful plumaged bird warming its wings in the sun. The stalks were three feet and ten inches high.—H. O. WILSON, Ravenna, Ohio.

MELON CULTURE.

MR. VICK :—Our Melon patch, though small in comparison with many of those surrounding us, I venture to say has produced more and larger Melons in proportion to its size. It consists of two acres of rich, sandy soil,—the best, as I have been told, adapted to Melon raising. I will give you the weights of some of our Melons so far produced, beginning with the "pride of our patch," namely, the White Japanese. In the early part of the season we pulled several weighing seven and eight pounds. As to the flavor and producing qualities of these most delicious of Melons, I can say that they are unsurpassed. From eighteen or twenty

hills we have pulled, up to this date, upwards of one hundred and fifty Melons, and the vines are still in good bearing condition. The next in quality is the Prolific Nutmeg, which is very appropriately named, for I have noticed on a majority of our hills eight or ten Melons lying in a circumference with a diameter of less than four feet. These Melons, though not to be compared with the White Japanese, are excellent in quality. The largest of this variety weighed from seven to nine pounds. As to the Casaba and Large Persian, I am undecided as to which is the best; they are both prolific, and of good size. Some of our largest Large Persians, I think, when ripe, will reach twelve or fifteen pounds.

As this is the end of the varieties of *Cucumis Melo* which we have, I will turn to our Water Melons, beginning with those which have made the best impression upon us. The Mountain Sweet, though it has not proved in our patch a prolific bearer, has produced the largest and best eating Melons we have. They range in weight from fifteen to twenty-eight and one-half pounds. The Mountain Sprout, next in order, has proved quite prolific and of good size, but not as good an eating Melon as the Mountain Sweet. As to the Vick's Early and Black Spanish, I will not express my opinion, as we were unfortunate in having to plant the former too late, on account of the river being over our ground, and the latter in unsuitable ground, it being shaded too much. As to the quality of these Melons, I have no doubt but that they are excellent.—G. M., Catlettsburg, Ky.

HOME GROWN HYACINTHS.

MR. VICK :—Whenever I have seen anything in your lovely little MAGAZINE about Hyacinths, as in the July number some one asks, "Why can not Hyacinths be grown here as in Holland? Why not become finer every year, instead of poorer?" you answer, "Simply because Nature has ordained it otherwise," etc. I have been tempted to write you of a bed of Hyacinths that I *know* to have been blooming for twenty years in a garden on the Arkansas river. Older members of the family say longer than that. The last time I saw them, three or four years ago, I thought them the finest I had ever seen, and I have seen them grown by all the best florists of St. Louis, where I have lived since the war.

The bulbs were in a bed in the garden, never taken up the year round. The bed was kept free of weeds, in the fall had a very light top-dressing of manure, and as the bulbs multiplied and became crowded they were thinned out. There were the double and single white, single

blue, double light and dark pink, and double purple. The largest, richest, most gorgeously beautiful things that could be imagined. The place has been rented out and most of the flowers destroyed, but one of the ladies of the family had some of the bulbs from the old garden last winter, and she told me only a few days since that they were as fine as ever. Now I have never been to Holland, but I don't think they could do any better than that! I cannot help thinking that the bulbs, when taken out of the ground, suffer from our long, hot summers. —MRS. E. L. K., *Lonore, Ark.*

We are glad to hear of the success of friends, even at the expense of our theories. The summers, however, cannot cause the trouble, because when we let them remain in the ground the whole year they are quite as bad. In the spring we can show many that have been lingering for years in the garden beds, and now produce flowering stems with barely half a dozen bells.

A gentleman from Groveland, in this State, called to inform us that he has had Hyacinths in his garden more than forty years, and the spikes of flowers were as good as when first planted.

EUPHORBIA MARGINATA.

DEAR SIR:—I thought I would write and tell you what an adventure I have had with the Euphorbia or Snow-on-the-mountain. I found out by experience that it is poison. A few evenings ago I went out on my lawn to make several bouquets for my friends, and I kept plucking now and then a sprig of Euphorbia to



mingle in with the scarlet and pink Geraniums, they contrast so beautifully with its snowy-white and green leaves. As you are aware, it contains a milky, acrid juice. The evening being very warm I would occasionally wipe my face with my hands, not knowing the danger. Soon after returning to the house my face and eyes commenced smarting and burning as though I had come in contact with pepper. It annoyed me very much all night, and next morning my face and one eye was badly swollen, and also attended with nausea and dizziness. It continued almost a week before it subsided.

I do not wish to cast away the beautiful plant, but it should be handled with care. My husband thought best to dig it up and cast it away, but I still plead for its life, though I do believe if a child should unknowingly eat a small quantity, it would prove a deadly poison. I have

cultivated it several years, but was never so unfortunate before. While out on my lawn this evening, I could not help looking at it with a little contempt, that, after all my tender, watchful care during spring and summer, it would treat me so unkindly; and it looks so pure and innocent. Yet, undoubtedly many a handsome flower is poison, though we may not be aware of it.

Now, Mr. VICK, I have one request to make. Wont you give us one of your pictures in some number of your MAGAZINE before the close of the year, instead of a floral chromo? No doubt many of your friends will gladly respond.

—MRS. A. H., *Bantam, O*

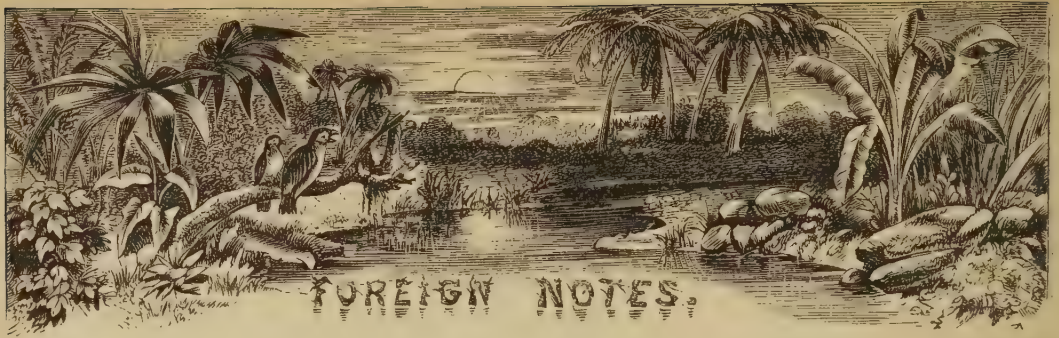
The Euphorbias all have an acid juice that is more or less irritating to the skin. Some persons may handle the milky juice with impunity; to others it is quite irritating, doubtless more so at certain times, or under certain conditions of the human system, than at others.

We receive a great many such suggestions about a portrait, but as we are getting better looking every day, a little delay will be of mutual advantage.

LARGE CALADIUMS.—I noticed in the August number of your MONTHLY an article from F. W., of Marion Co., Ind., in which you are accused (jestingly, of course,) of attempting to deceive the public in regard to the growth of the Caladium esculentum, and the writer mentions one grown this spring, the leaves of which measured two feet by eighteen inches, and seems to consider this an enormous growth. I will state for F. W.'s benefit that I have a Caladium grown from a tuber obtained from you this spring, which is six feet high and has twenty-four leaves, the largest measuring forty-two and a half by thirty-two inches. I have also a bunch of Canna, grown from a single seed planted in May, which has thirty stalks, the tallest measuring seven feet in height. Who can beat it?—MRS. K. O., *Monticello, Ark.*

FINE AURATUM LILY.—I must say a word or two of my Auratum Lily, which I planted three years ago. Last fall it blossomed some, but now it is a perfect beauty. The stalk is seven feet high and has thirty buds and flowers. Fifteen blossoms out to-day. I can't tell how beautiful they are.—MRS. S. D., *Lowman, Chem. Co., N. Y.*

ANOTHER FINE AURATUM.—The Auratum is so grand a Lily that we are always glad to hear from those who have success to report. Mrs. DOTON, of Woodstock, Vermont, has one three years planted that had on the first of September fourteen buds, six open flowers, and two had faded and been removed. Mrs. D. also sends us a Morning Glory leaf that is about a foot in length and nine inches in breadth.



SEEDS AND SEED GROWERS.

The interesting article given below is from a seed grower of St Osyth, England, and is one that will benefit alike seed planters and seed growers. The better this subject is understood, the better for all. A few of the most pleasant days of our life were spent in St. Osyth and its vicinity. It seems to be the favorite home of flower-seed growers, and many hundreds of acres were ablaze with *Eschscholtzias*, *Clarkias* and *Nemophilas*. One thing we particularly noticed, that most of the flowers grown there for seed were natives of California.

HOW SHALL WE OBTAIN GOOD SEEDS ?

"It is easy to answer the above question by saying, 'Go to a respectable seed shop;' but the seed vendor has to ask the same question, and gets for his answer, 'Go to a respectable seed grower;' and he, poor man, has to ask the question in its ultimate sense, and to him Echo answers 'How?' He has no one else to go to, and the problem is left for him to solve. Efficient seed growing comprehends a great deal beyond the simple manual labour of digging, sowing, weeding, hoeing, reaping, &c., which none but the practical and experienced seed grower can comprehend, or the problem would not be a difficult one. Seeds are unique in their characteristics, and cannot be compared with any other product of art. The seed grower has to aim at getting a live object, and keeping it alive when he has got it. A seed is absolutely worthless for sowing if it has no life; its life, however, is latent, and the inexperienced grower may be easily deceived, as by injudicious management, although he may get full-sized and apparently good seeds, he may get little or no vitality in them. A good seed consists of a well developed embryo with a quantity of food for nourishment in its first stage of growth, enclosed and well protected by integuments. Plants choked and starved by weeds, or even by each other, cannot produce seeds of first quality. This is especially evident in *Cruciferae*, which not only produce imperfectly developed seed-vessels, containing small and

imperfect seeds, but also suffer very much more if attacked by blight, when their cultivation is badly managed or neglected. On the other hand, a too luxuriant growth is not good for the production of good seed. This is more especially evident in *Leguminosae*, which, when encouraged by a suitable season, rich soil, &c., in the production of robust stems and leaves, will go on in that direction till the termination of the growing season, or till they are fairly brought down, being smothered by their own luxuriance. While such growth is going on, the blossoms and young pods will drop off in great numbers, and those which remain will come to maturity by such a slow process that they never ripen well, and consequently the seed will gain but little vitality. The best seeds are produced by a plant which has a healthy and free growth till it is well in blossom, and is then kept only sufficiently nourished to enable it to produce and perfect its seed, that it may, by the performance of this, its final use, suffer exhaustion and death.

Although the living embryo plant is well provided for and protected by Nature, the integuments are not insensible to external influences; if they were, the embryo could never come forth to perform its uses in the world, but its cradle would be its grave. A full-grown seed gains vitality by the process of ripening, and this vitality the seed is able to retain to an indefinite period if not exposed to any external influences. Heat, air and moisture, in various degrees and proportions according to the nature of the plant, are necessary, and also sufficient to call forth the latent vitality of the sleeping embryo, and give it actual and evident life. When a seed imbibes water, and with it a certain degree of heat, it expands, and if again exposed to a dry atmosphere it again contracts; and this alternate expansion and contraction by alternate exposure to wet and dry atmospheres is very injurious to seeds. When the seed expands by exposure to atmospherical influences the embryo is already moving, and begins to expend its latent vitality by its struggles for actual and evident life. A well developed and

fully ripened seed should never be once exposed to a wet atmosphere, not even the dewy eve, if it can be prevented. There is the secret of getting hold of a good seed—a living object—and keeping it alive.

Many seeds are destroyed, or partly destroyed, especially in wet seasons, by the injudicious treatment of the careless or inexperienced. Seeds that ought to retain their vitality five or six years are often found dead at the end of twelve months. No seeds can be kept alive in the seed shops for any great length of time if they have been allowed to waste their lives by exposure in the hands of the seed grower. Some entertain the idea that corn and many kinds of seeds are benefited by exposure to a good shower or two of rain after they are cut, or, as some would say, having plenty of field room. It is true that many or most seeds are easier to thresh after being left exposed to the weather, and some may even increase in bulk after being cut if left in the straw exposed to a few genial showers; but it is a rule, probably without exception, that the less a ripened seed is exposed to atmospheric changes the longer it will retain its vitality or powers of germination. On the other hand, there is loss when seeds are cut and dried too quickly. Let it be remembered also, that each of the multitudinous kinds of seed requires its peculiar treatment, and that the treatment of each requires modification according to the uncertain and ever-changing seasons, and it will be seen that the duties of the seed grower are something more than can be done by the simple line and rule process. Let all seed vendors visit seed growers as often as possible during seed harvest, and note the *modus operandi* of seed-gathering, and see what kind of seeds, as to quality, they may expect.”—G.

GARDEN PESTS.

Garden pests are at this time of the year in great force. “It is impossible,” says Bernardin de St. Pierre, “to give the history of a city without saying something of its inhabitants.” With the inhabitants of gardens the gardener must indeed make an intimate acquaintance; there are the caterpillars that eat up the leaves and delicate flower-buds of the Rose, the leaves of the Gooseberry, Currant, and Cabbage; the ants that are troublesome at the roots of things; slugs and snails that nip young plants in the bud, and leave their slimy silvery trail over wall fruits; then, again, there are the mice that wait to demolish the Peas just deposited in the drills, and the sparrows, blackbirds and jays are sharpening their beaks for the Cherries. But upon the petals of flowers, upon every leaf,

there are myriads of little creatures that may be studied, and are worth studying, for there are wonders in every dewdrop and upon every film of thistle down. It is happily the tendency of the times to direct the studies of youth to these beauties and wonders. The father of a family who would take an interest in the worlds which abound in his garden, and would open them up to his children, would do them a real service. How many errors and extravagancies of youth might not be checked by the early infusion of a strong taste for scientific gardening and botanical research. To direct the inquiries of the young to this inner life of the garden is to strengthen their minds for loftier inquiries in the future. Our minds have a better grasp of the grandeur of the universe when they have become familiar with the vital atoms that have a blade of grass for their broad world, and as we pursue our delightful study we daily grow more devoutly reverential in approaching Nature, and in acknowledging the illimitable wonders of that vast scheme of order which God had created, and over which God presides.—T. S. J., in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*.

LADY-BIRDS AND GREEN FLY.—In the cultivation of Dahlias and Roses I have derived so much assistance from lady-birds, that I am desirous of saying a word in their favor. I am afraid that large numbers of the larvæ are destroyed owing to people not knowing what a vast amount of good they, as well as the fully developed beetles, are capable of effecting. At the present moment my Roses and Dahlias are being cleared of the green fly by the larvæ of the lady-bird, which swarm upon the plants, and I have no fear as to the ultimate results. Some years ago, during the early part of the season, my Roses were so badly infested with green fly that the blooms had to be carefully cleansed with a brush and water before anything could be done with them; but in the course of the summer lady-birds and their larvæ so effectually cleared the plants that in the autumn there was not an aphid to be found.—GEORGE RAWLINGS, in *English Gardeners' Magazine*.

STATE ENTOMOLOGISTS.—If we were Americans we should feel proud of having secured such a man as Professor RILEY as entomologist to the Government Department of Agriculture. As Englishmen we congratulate our cousins on their judgment, and we look forward with confidence to the benefit that will accrue to tillers of the soil, of whatever country, and to the advance of science that will accrue from this excellent appointment.—*Lond. Gard's Chron.*

TOMATOES IN ENGLAND.

Occasionally we send seeds of new flowers and vegetables to the *Royal Horticultural Society of England*, for trial at the Chiswick Gardens. The reports of these trials are of great value, and we hope the time is not far distant when in this country trial grounds shall be established under the care of competent and reliable men, to whom can be sent every new candidate for public favor, and whose reports will be a safe guide to the purchaser. Some years ago we submitted the *Hathaway Tomato* to this trial, and it received a first-class certificate, and has since become the most popular Tomato in England. More recently we forwarded another variety, which also received the same honor, and it has been named by some of our English friends *Vick's Criterion*. The following notes on Tomatoes we copy from the London press :

Hathaway's Excelsior Tomato.—Having grown several varieties of Tomatoes this season in pots, viz., Criterion, Old Red, Excelsior (Hathaway's), Orange-field, Trophy, Green Gage, and Keyes' Prolific, I consider Hathaway's Excelsior far superior to any of them for general purposes, being a good grower and cropper, and having a handsome fruit, very large and as round as an apple. Out of doors, too, it promises to be a desirable kind, as it ripens early, an important point in connection with Tomatoes in the open air.—J. WILLIAMS, in *The London Garden*.

Tomatoes.—It is said that Tomatoes given to cows improve both the quantity and quality of the milk, imparting to the butter a golden color. Does anybody know if in this last respect there is any difference whether the red or golden varieties be given to them? No wonder the Americans marvel when they see Tomatoes marked at 2s. a pound in Covent Garden.—*London Garden of Aug. 17.*

HOME TRAVEL.

The variety and richness of English landscape, the noble coast scenery of Yorkshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall, the lovely hills and lanes of Surry, the Sussex downs, the mountains and lakes of Cumberland and Wales, of Scotland and Ireland, the literary and historical associations which make hallowed ground of so many spots in these islands—here are attractions which should suffice, and more than suffice, to satisfy the curiosity and to delight the eye of the traveler. And he has the satisfaction of feeling that they belong, as it were, to himself. As an Englishman, his own country claims his first regard, but its objects of beauty and interest lie so close to him that he is liable to forget their value. Many cultivated Americans put us to shame in this respect. England, the mother-land of the race, has for them an indescribable attraction. They are eager to visit a country hallowed by so many memories ; to see the home of Shakespeare and the scenes immortalized by Scott ; to visit our great seats of learning ; to explore

the ancient buildings and institutions which testify to the durability of English customs ; to do homage to what is venerable in a past which belongs to them as well as to us. Even when, like Hawthorne, they exhibit some prejudice, their remarks betray affection for England as well as pride in her greatness ; and it may be said with truth that some of the most enthusiastic descriptions of English scenery and of our stately homes and venerable cathedrals have been written by Americans. There is surely a moral in this fact for the tourist.—*The Garden*.

VEGETATION OF CYPRUS.—Speaking of the flora of this island, Drs. UNGER and KOTSCHY in their work, "*Die Insel Cypern*," say :— "There is great resemblance in the vegetation throughout the islands of the Mediterranean. In February and March there is upon all the river edges a profusion of Lilies ; in April and May on the land side is one carpet of flowers. During the heat, however, the land assumes a yellow tint. Pine forests abound, Olives, Myrtles, and Laurel trees. As far as the island has as yet been explored, we know that there are one thousand different sorts of plants. No island can show such a rich forest growth as Cyprus."

CANADA RICE : ZIZANIA AQUATICA.—This very interesting and important plant, we have the pleasure to record, is once again the subject of culture at Kew. Several attempts to germinate the seeds having met with the usual and almost inevitable failure, the possibility of getting over young seedlings alive suggested itself, and accordingly some were obtained and despatched by a correspondent on the Potomac River. They were selected two or three inches high, and taken up with so much mud as the roots would hold, and packed in a small cigar-box with damp moss. Two pots are now in a flourishing condition.—*Lond. Gard's Chron.*

PARAFFIN FOR SCALE INSECT.—The *Florist* says Mr. KNIGHT has recently given the results of his experience as to the efficacy of a weak solution of Paraffin for the destruction of Scale, as recommended some few years since. His plan was to syringe the plants infected with bug and scale with a wash made up in the proportion of one wineglassful of paraffin oil to four gallons of water. The oil requires to be kept thoroughly mixed with the syringe—one squirt into the can and one on the plant. This was used with Oranges, Gardenias, Crotons, and many other plants which had bug and scale on them, and while the young leaves were not injured, it proved certain death to the insects.



PLEASANT GOSSIP.

CLASSIFICATION OF FLOWERS.

MR. VICK :—Will you please tell us in the *MAGAZINE* about the Hardy and Tender Annuals, Biennials, Perennials, &c., the differences and the treatment each requires. The information, I think, will be useful to a good many of your readers.—ROLPH.

HARDY BULBS are those that can endure a northern winter, and most of them, like the Hyacinth, Tulip, and other early spring flowering kinds, should be planted in the autumn. Others that, like the Lilies, flower later in the season, may be planted in the spring. Plant Hardy Bulbs in October or early in November, if you wish a good show of early flowers in the spring.

TENDER or SUMMER BULBS, like the Gladiolus, Tuberose and Tigridia, would perish if left in the ground during the winter at the North. They must be planted in the spring, and can be kept stored away from frost until spring planting.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS are plants which die down to the ground every autumn, but the roots continue to live, and new branches and flower stems are thrown up for many years. Some continue indefinitely, but others die after three or four years, like the Sweet William; but if the roots are divided every year, they will continue to live and increase. These are called *imperfect perennials*.

ANNUALS flower the first season, perfect their seeds, and then die. Some varieties that are grown as Annuals in a northern climate, are either Perennials or Biennials in their southern home, where there are no severe frosts. As Annuals flower in a few weeks or months after being planted, and can be depended upon for a brilliant show, they have always been deservedly popular, and each year marks a great improvement in our list of Annuals. With a proper arrangement, a continuous bloom may be kept up from early in June until frost.

Annuals are classed *hardy*, *half-hardy*, and *tender*. *Hardy* Annuals are those that, like the Larkspur, Candytuft, etc., may be sown in the autumn or very early in the spring, in the open ground. The *half-hardy* varieties will

not endure cold, and should not be sown in the open ground until danger from frost is over. The Balsam and the Marigolds belong to this class. The *tender* Annuals generally require starting in a green-house or hot-bed to bring them to perfection, and should not be set in the open ground until the weather is quite warm. The Cypress Vine and the Sensitive Plant belong to this class; but, fortunately, very few of our fine Annuals. Some of them do tolerably well if sown in the open ground the latter part of May, but very great success is not to be expected in this way. It must be admitted, however, that these distinctions are not well defined, and it is difficult to say where some kinds belong.

CROOKED ENGLISH.

The efforts of our Holland and German friends to write and print *English* sometimes causes us a good deal of amusement, and we enjoy it all the more as a kind of compensation for the fun we gave them in our awkward attempts to talk Dutch, when a guest of the kind and hospitable people of those countries. We will never forget the amusement caused by our diligent search of the Railroad Guide Book for a place, the name of which we saw on a large sign at the station, "*Ausgang*," nor how we felt when we learned that this merely meant "*the way out*." From a firm of seed-growers in the Netherlands, who regularly furnish us printed reports of the seed crop, we have just received a circular, dated August 1st, from which we make a few extracts so that our readers may have a little pleasure too.

Now being able to give a somewhat reliable Report of the Prospects of our Gardenseed-Crops, we have pleasure to do so, and beg also to say that we will feel much obliged to hear reciprocally from you, how the crops look in your neighbourhood.

CABBAGE. Partly they are splendid, partly well and partly bad. Though some of the fewer current varieties will yield only a few quantity, we however are glad to say that the crop of Cabbageseed will be probably a very good one.

ONION sober, are affected with illness.

CUCUMBER sober; if we have continuing favorable weather, they will become still good.

THE CALADIUMS.

The Caladium is becoming a great favorite, as it well deserves to be, because its leaves are so large and handsome, and also because it never disappoints any one. We do not remember ever having heard of a bulb that failed to grow and give satisfaction. The engraving we give is from a photograph of a plant sent us last season. The following are selected out of a dozen communications of a somewhat similar character now before us :

MR. VICK:—I saw in your August number a letter from F. W., speaking of a Caladium having a leaf two feet in length. Now, I think I can beat that a little. I have a Caladium, the largest leaf of which is three feet and seven inches in length, thirty inches in width, and ten feet three inches in circumference. Now, don't you



CALADIUM PLANTS.

think that will beat F. W.'s? I also have a Madiera Vine in very good growth, its largest leaves measuring from six to six and a half inches in length, and twenty-two inches in circumference. I have had a Fuchsia in blossom ever since early in the spring, and thinking to raise a new plant, I tried several slips cut from the old plant, but cannot get any to grow; so I come to you to tell me how to grow them.—F. M. M., *Brookville, Ind.*

In the case of the Fuchsia try younger wood for the cuttings.

The Caladium you sent me has done splendidly, and is a curiosity in this region. It has several leaves over thirty inches in length; the largest one is forty-one inches long and twenty-eight and one-half inches wide.—J. L. B., *Warren, Mich.*

The engraving above shows a single plant, but it is in a group that this plant is most effective, as shown in an illustration on page 39 of the February number.

OUR POSTAL LAWS AND RULINGS.

The mysteries of our *Postal Laws* and the *Rulings* of the Post Master General and his assistants are past finding out. They are too deep in their occult wisdom, and their hidden lore, for us, or else there is neither wisdom nor lore in the whole thing. The Canadian Seedsman or Nurseryman can send his Catalogues all over the United States for *four cents* a pound postage, but the American must pay *eight cents*. The Canadian can put an order sheet in his Catalogues and there is no additional charge, but if the American puts such a simple document in his, he is charged sixteen cents a pound. The Canadian Seedsman or Nurseryman can send seeds and plants through the

United States mails at *FOUR CENTS* per pound, while for the same service the American Seedsman or Nurseryman has to pay *SIXTEEN CENTS* per pound. *A curious protection to home industry!*

The Postal Department has just announced that by paying *ten cents* additional any package of seeds or plants will be registered. So the Seedsman can mail a pint of Peas, worth perhaps ten cents, weighing a pound, for sixteen cents postage and ten cents registry; but if the package is lost the Seedsman or his customer loses the Peas and the postage and the price paid for registering, the Postal Department taking no responsibility in the

matter. If a person writes a fine hand, he may put a hundred or more words on a postal card and mail it for one cent. If any one pastes the least strip of printed matter on it, the postage is increased to six cents, though he may print on it the same matter, and by putting it in fine type get several thousand words on the card, and it will go for one cent; and he may paste the card all over with printed matter then put it in an open envelope, and it will go for one cent. The card and envelope will go for less money than the card alone.

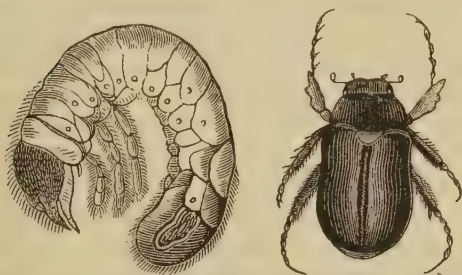
It is about time that all these absurdities were abolished, and a uniform rate charged for everything that passes through the mails. Let the charge be two or three cents for the first half ounce, and half or a quarter of a cent for

every additional ounce, and the Postmasters will be relieved from all surveillance. There would be no necessity for peeping into packages to ascertain whether they contain any contraband writing, and no detaining packages of merchandise on the plea that they were too closely sealed. The merchant could then wrap his packages so securely as to ensure safety in the mails, without danger of having them arrested by some over-officious Postmaster; and these gentlemen, whom we have usually found to have the interests of the public at heart, would be relieved of the annoyances which are now connected with their office. A plan so simple and so advantageous, both to the Government and the people, it seems to us should secure the favorable notice of Congress.

THE LARGE WHITE GRUB.

The large, fat looking white grub, with a brownish head, is doing a good deal of mischief to the roots of plants this season. They were never so numerous nor so destructive. Can you tell us something about their habits. They destroy the roots of a good many plants, and have killed hundreds of Strawberry plants in my garden.—SOUTHWICK.

The grub described above is the larvæ of the May-bug, a large brownish beetle seen flying about our gardens and sometimes entering our houses during the evenings of the latter part of May or early in June. This beetle hides itself in trees and shrubs during the day-time, generally clinging to the under sides of the leaves, which it feeds upon, but as it lives only about a



week, does but little mischief unless they are very numerous. After about a week of active life the female digs into the ground several feet and deposits her eggs, probably a hundred, after which she ascends to the surface and soon dies. The eggs are hatched in mid-summer, but the larvæ are so small and inactive that they do little harm, the whole group keeping together. The second summer they come to the surface and commence the work of destruction, feeding on the tender roots of any plants they can obtain, working all summer, until cold weather compels them to descend again into winter quarters. The next spring they commence feeding heartily and continue until the middle of the summer, when they descend to

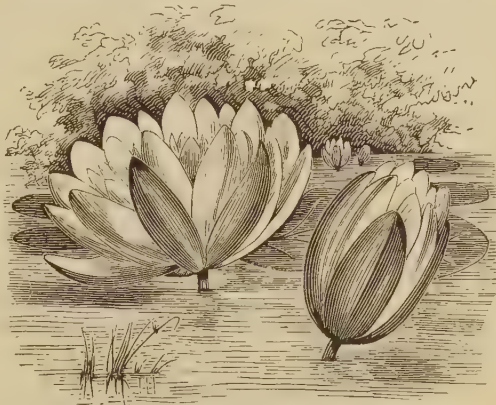
the depth of five feet, make an oval cell and assume the chrysalis state, and the next spring come forth a perfect May-bug. Some entomologists claim that this beetle remains in the larvæ state one year longer, which may be true.

The best remedy is to kill every beetle and grub that can be found. When numerous, shaking the trees will bring down a good many that can be destroyed. Sulphur and salt have both been recommended. The English gardeners sometimes plant Lettuce, of which they are very fond, as traps.

THE WATER LILIES.

The *Nymphæa odorata* seems to be the best adapted of all the Water Lilies to home culture. Among the many letters received, describing great success with this Lily, we give the following from a Richmond editor.

I have raised a great many flowers, but not one which ever proved a greater success, or gave me more real de-



light than the *Nymphæa odorata* I obtained last spring. I put it in a barrel under about twenty inches of water, with probably ten inches of street sweepings in the bottom. It has flourished amazingly, giving me at least thirty of its exquisite blossoms. I shall increase the number next year,—W. H. P., *Richmond, Va.*

A lady of Buchanan, Michigan also writes:

I must tell you of my success with the *Nymphæa odorata*. This is my first attempt at its cultivation, and I am more than pleased with the result of my labor. I have a barrel sunk about half way in the ground and filled with water, in which is my Lily now in blossom. Around the barrel I built a rockery, setting such plants as Sweet Alyssum, Phlox Drummondii, Portulaca, Verbena, Pansies, Feverfew, Ferns, and a few Foliage plants. It produces a beautiful effect, and is admired by all who see it.

Now a word to the readers and lovers of the *FLORAL MAGAZINE*. Would it not be very nice if Mr. VICK would put his portrait in one of the *MAGAZINES*, instead of inserting a colored plate in a future number? I know thousands of people would be very much delighted.—MRS. A. J. E.

If we can overcome our natural modesty, and get a handsome picture that will do us anything like justice, perhaps next year we may gratify those who desire to see how good looking we are.

STRAW MATTING AND OTHER THINGS.

1. What will be the warmest and lightest cover for the sash of a hot-bed twelve feet long by five wide? I have one of boards; it is too heavy for me to lift as often as will be necessary.

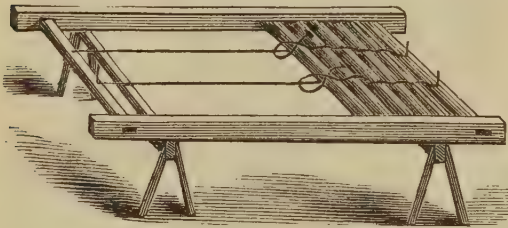
2. For the last three years I have failed in having nice and healthy house Roses. I have tried Allopathy, Homœopathy, change of climate and soil, and killing with kindness and book culture; with this variety of treatment they grow some healthy foliage, a few weak flowers droop, drop their leaves and commence again with the same result.

3. Are there two kinds of Heliotrope? I have some that are not fragrant, though they bloom freely.

4. I want a great many Dahlias next year; what will be the best way to set them? The few that I see here are set in with other flowers, or by the side of walks. I would rather set mine in a place by themselves, like a patch of Corn. What is the proper way?

5. Is it the best way to water plants with strong tobacco water to kill angle worms? Sometimes I find they are in crocks that I do not want to disturb by turning the plants out.—MRS. B. S., *Footville, Wis.*

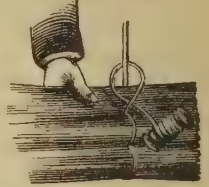
1. The warmest and lightest covering for hot-bed sash as a protection from very severe weather is straw mats, and perhaps we may as well tell how they are made. These mats are easily made and one can employ his time upon them in very cold or stormy weather, when nothing can be done to advantage outside. In order to make a good article and to work to best advantage it is best to employ a frame,



such as is shown in the engraving. This frame may be made of two pieces of two-by-four stuff for the sides, of the length required for the mat, and of two transverse pieces morticed into them at the ends. Four feet will be found a very convenient width for the frame. This frame work can rest upon a pair of wooden horses, about two feet in height, in which position the labor can be most easily performed. In the engraving we have shown only two strings, but a mat of four feet width should have at least four string, which will make the spaces between them about nine and one-half inches in width; closer tying than this even would be preferable. Screws are inserted at the proper distances on the cross pieces, to which the strings are attached. The straw is placed on the strings so as to have all the butts or lower ends come against the sides of the frame, with the tops meeting in the middle, and so thin as to have the mat not more than three-quarters of an inch in thickness when finished. The stitches should not be more than three-fourths of an inch in width.

The tying string should be wound on a reel, and there should be one of them for each stationary string. The method of tying is shown in the small engraving.

Take a little of the straw with the left hand and work the reel with the right, first over the straw and then under the stationary string, bringing it back between the two strings, pulling tightly and pressing the straw so as to have a flat stitch. In this way the work is continued until the mat is finished.



2. Rose culture in the house is somewhat difficult. An even, moist temperature, freedom from dust, and water as needed, is all we can advise.

3. We have never grown a Heliotrope that was not fragrant.

4. Dahlias can be used in a great many ways—alone in a border, or circular bed, as a back ground for some low growing flowers, or as a screen. Once, in September, we visited a garden that had very choice beds of perennials which we had often admired in their spring and summer glory, but, at this time, not expecting to find the beds of perennials in any way attractive, was somewhat surprised to notice from a distance such an array of bright colors. On investigation we ascertained that every vacant spot had been supplied with a Dahlia plant, while at the rear of the beds a narrow walk between the perennial beds and the shrubbery had been bordered with Dahlias, two or three deep, and the bright flowers not only beautified the perennial beds, but seemed to light up the shrubbery with a summer glow. The Dahlia is an invaluable autumn flower when properly used.

5. Care should be used in securing good potting earth without insects or worms. A little tobacco or lime water will compel angle worms to come to the surface, when they can be removed. If the ball of earth is slipped from the pot, the angle worms will be found on the outside, and can be removed by hand.

FLOWER CULTURE IN THE BLACK HILLS.—Mrs. ROCHE, of Deadwood, writes that flowers do well there, and she failed only with Celosias and Pansies, the latter being small on account of late planting.

VEGETABLES.—In response to the wishes of several correspondents we shall commence a series of articles on the Vegetable Garden in the next number.

MOLUCCA BALM.

In a recent number of the *MAGAZINE*, in answer to a correspondent, we promised as soon as our plants were sufficiently matured to make an engraving of that curious old plant, the *Molucca Balm*, or *Shell Flower*. This plant is a native of Syria, but seed was carried to England three hundred years ago by the Botanist to King JAMES I, but was lost and re-introduced a hundred or more years afterward, and was almost lost again. When obtaining some seed about four years since, we called particular attention to it. It is a strong annual, growing from two to three feet in height, starting from the ground with a single strong stem, branching



at about six inches from the ground. At this point it throws up a dozen or more strong curved arms, usually two feet in length, and these are surrounded with flowers, scarcely leaving room for a leaf. Indeed, but few leaves appear; perhaps not more than half-a-dozen on each of the branches. The flowers are very small, pink and white, but surrounded with a large shell-like calyx, as we have attempted to show in the engraving. Underneath each calyx is a singular whorl of spines. The plant has a strong smell of balm. It is a very curious plant, and has attracted much attention wherever shown. Our engravings show a clus- of flowers, and also a branch.

MY FLOWER GARDEN.

I noticed in your last number, one of your friends spoke of some fine *Gladiolus*. We have some that I think equal to them, one blossom having twelve petals and eight stamens, two having eleven petals with eight stamens, and one with nine petals and seven stamens, and four pairs of twins, there being fifteen petals from one bud on one of them, and the remaining three pairs having just the two natural flowers on each bud. Do they often do so? Such a thing has never been heard of before around here. Our bed of *Phlox Drummondii* has been very nice this year, there being thirty-nine or forty different kinds in one bed, making a very bright and showy blaze of flowers. Our *Dahlias* bloomed early last month, but they grew so tall that I think they did not do so well, did not bloom as freely as they ought to have done. If they had been cut down do you think they would have flowered again this season. I must not forget the *Balsams*, which I think would be hard to beat. There are a lot of other flowers that present a very showy appearance that I will not mention. The last,

but not least, I will speak of has been the *Pansies*. I have had the whole race, from the velvety negro to the delicate little white face—every color you could imagine. Is the white *Clematis* like the purple? Are the blossoms shaped the same, and are there any double ones? Some people think by planting *Zinnias* with *Petunias* they will mix, and give you double *Petunias* in the place of single; what do you think of that method? would it be of any use to try it, think you?—MRS. WM. BRAY, *Canton*.

The White *Clematis* is like the purple, except, of course, in color. There are several varieties of double *Clematis*, but they are yet quite expensive—about \$2.00 each. The *Zinnia* could have no possible effect on the *Petunias*. Unless the *Dahlias* were in partial shade we cannot account for their propensity to ascend so rapidly and flower so early. Pinching off the top of the leading shoots would have caused them to branch and made a corresponding reduction in the height.

Soaking Seeds.—Is soaking vegetable seeds a good plan, such as Beets, Turnips, &c.—T. H. J.

Some hard-shelled seeds are benefited not only by soaking, but by scalding. As a general rule, however, it is not good. If seeds are soaked and the germ commences growing, and the seeds are sown in a dry time they are very apt to perish for lack of moisture, while if they were sown without soaking they would remain dormant until rain came, or would germinate very slowly, accommodating themselves to the moisture in the soil. The better way in a dry time is to roll the soil after sowing the seeds, or in small beds to pack the soil with the back of the spade. This will bring the soil in contact with the seed, the effect produced by rain.

MELONS.—To a gentleman of Catlettsburgh, Ky., who wished to make a trial of Melons but had no experience in Melon culture, we sent last spring a number of varieties. The following is the report made August 28th: "I write you an account of the Melons raised from seed you sent me in May. Mountain Sweet, largest twenty-eight pounds; Mountain Sprout twenty-five pounds; Prolific Nutmeg seven and eight pounds. I am very much pleased with the White Japan you sent me complimentary; from twenty-four hills we have gotten four hundred Melons. They are pronounced to be the best and sweetest Cantaloupe brought to market, and sell readily. I did not use manure."

PANSY AND PHLOX.—My Pansy bed is beautiful, and my *Phlox Drummondii* is one brilliant mass, worth ten times ten cents, which the seeds cost. Father says if I am not able to gather seeds he will gladly pay for more next year.—E. A. S., *Martinsburg, Iowa*.

EUONYMUS JAPONICUS.

Almost every week, and sometimes for several days in succession, we are asked "Why does not my Japonica flower?" and in many



cases a specimen accompanies the inquiry. In almost every case where the information could be obtained we have ascertained that while our friends supposed they had the *Camellia Japonica*, all specimens sent us were *Euonymus Japonicus*, a plant that seldom flowers, and even when it does the bloom is so insignificant as to be hardly noticed. To save our friends from further errors we have had engraved a branch of the *Euonymus*.

A LITTLE INFORMATION ASKED.

MR. VICK:—*Dear Sir*:—Will you or some one of the many readers of your charming MAGAZINE please give me a little information in regard to floral matters. How should the *Caladium esculentum* and the *Canna* be kept during the winter? Should the roots be hung up and dried, or kept in earth? We have a Wax Plant which grows very slowly; does it require any peculiar treatment to make it do well? Some florists tell us that the hardy *Hydrangea grandiflora* should be cut back every spring, full half the previous season's growth. Is this treatment necessary? I wonder what is the matter with my *Erianthus Ravennæ*. The seed was planted and came up nicely, but, though your book speaks as if it were doubtful about its blossoming the first season at all, it commenced to bloom when up only a few inches, and soon dried and was spoilt. The soil is very sandy. By the way, Mr. VICK, it is rather aggravating for us who have never seen you to have you telling us, every once in a while, how handsome you are. For the benefit of such unfortunate ones, suppose you give us your picture in some one of the numbers of the MAGAZINE. (Having no husband to be jealous, like those other ladies, I can make the suggestion with impunity.)—C. H. P., *Millston, Wis.*

The *Canna* and *Caladium* can be kept in pots during the winter, but they must be perfectly dry. They may be thrown on the cellar bottom out of pots, and if the cellar is dry and cool

enough they will remain perfectly sound until planting time in the spring. The Wax Plant is a very slow grower. The hardy *Hydrangea* bears its flowers on the ends of the new shoots, and not on the old wood. If cut back half the last season's growth a large number of shoots are the result, bearing its fine panicles of flowers until the whole plant looks like a mass of snowy bloom. Such a wonderful production of flowers may possibly weaken the plant, and we would suggest leaving one-third or one-half of the branches unpruned.

We cannot think you had the *Erianthus Ravennæ*. It does not often flower the first year, and not until several feet in height. To-day we have cut its plumes, all of nine feet in height. The plant is perfectly hardy, and for the North must take the

**ERIANTHUS RAVENNÆ.**

place of the Pampas Grass, though its flowers are not nearly as handsome. The plant, however, is very fine. We shall have to surrender, and give that picture.

GOOD CHEER.

Many times have we urged the people to enjoy the blessings which they have, and not mourn over those that are unattainable. And yet there are some folks who will continue to make themselves unnecessarily miserable because there are a few good things that they do not possess. A dozen packages of seeds are obtained; one out of the dozen fails to grow, and another grows well enough, but the flowers are not as fair as expected; so we mourn our pleasure all away over these two failures. A good lady in allusion to this subject, which is treated far too seriously, sends us the following verses:

Why sit you down at sighing
Because 'tis dark, my friend?
A light is underlying
The gloomiest shades that blend.

That life, it is completer,
If it embraces all;—
The sweet is always sweeter,
If you have tasted gall.

Then bravely bear your crosses,
Nor closely clasp your pains,
And hid among your losses
Perhaps you may find gains.

All of which is true, but we have very little sympathy for those who are constantly manufacturing trials and sorrows, that they may have the comfort of mourning over them.

A LARGE CUCUMBER.

I send you a Cucumber such as I never grew before. I obtained a paper of seed, and the package contained but four, I think, perhaps, five, and I grew three plants. The longest fruit was two feet in length, and really, though so large, was tender and solid, as good as any of the smaller ones. I have grown vegetables a good many years, but never before had such Cucumbers. The seeds were started late in a hot-bed; in fact, I used the sash and frame a second time, after having grown a crop of early Lettuce and Radishes. — S. FRANCES.



The Cucumber sent us with the above is a fair sized, well grown English variety, and is about as represented in the engraving. These foreign sorts are very large and handsome and of good quality, and great pains are taken by English growers to have them as straight as an arrow, and in every way handsome. Of course, a vine will bear comparatively few of such large fruit. They are less hardy than our common sorts, and need hot-bed treatment if started

early in the season; later they may be grown by covering with a hand-glass cool days and nights.

A WESTERN FLOWERY EMPIRE. — L. W. DARLING, of Humesville, Oregon, is quite enthusiastic over the flowers and future of Oregon, and writes: — "Oregon, or that part of it embraced within the Willamette Valley, or Web-foot County, is literally a land of bloom and beauty. All the year round, even in the rainy months of winter, flowers bloom with a radiance and fragrance rarely excelled. While we have a wet and disagreeable winter, yet our summer is a paradise. We need industrious and skillful workers, and good seed, and our gardens and flower plots would be equal to any in the world. 'Away out in the west,' where sweeps the bright Willamette, and where fir trees tower two hundred and fifty and three hundred feet in the air, we are laying the foundations of a broad and fertile empire, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of in the prophecy of BERKELEY, saying, 'Westward the star of empire wends its way.'"

GLAUCIUM CORNICULATUM.

The present summer we have been very much pleased with the *Glaucium corniculatum*. It is one of the very prettiest of our white leaved plants. The leaves are not only silvery white, something like the old-fashioned Dusty Miller, but the form is really elegant, as will be



seen by the engraving, and much more so than any plant of this character that we are acquainted with. It is peculiarly adapted for edgings, ribbon beds, vases, &c. It is grown freely from seed, which, of course, must be sown pretty early to secure good plants for spring.

A FAMILY ICE-HOUSE.

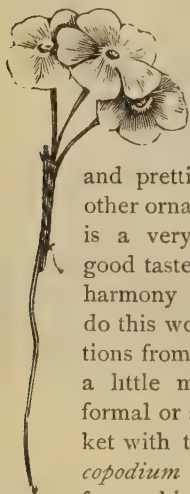
Will you please give some ideas on building an inexpensive Ice-House, in some of your future numbers? When is the proper time to pull the herb Saffron? — SUBSCRIBER.

An Ice-House may be a very simple construction, or it may be made quite ornamental, according to the place in which it is to be located, or the means of the builder. Three things are necessary to preserve ice, *protection* from the outside heat, *drainage* to carry off water formed by the melting ice, and *ventilation*, affording an opportunity for the air, as it becomes warm, to escape. Make double walls, as close and tight as possible, and fill the space with saw-dust, charcoal dust, gravel or sand. In making a drain, form it as small as necessary to carry off the water, so that as little air may enter as possible. The bottom, or floor, of the house should slope towards the mouth of the drain, so that water will escape readily. Gravel makes a good bottom, for a cheap house. Cement is generally used for permanent buildings. If the soil will absorb the water rapidly, all the better, and a drain will not be necessary. For ventilation, make an aperture in the roof, but arrange it so that no rain will enter, nor the sun's rays.

Only the flowers of Saffron are useful, and these are gathered when in full bloom.

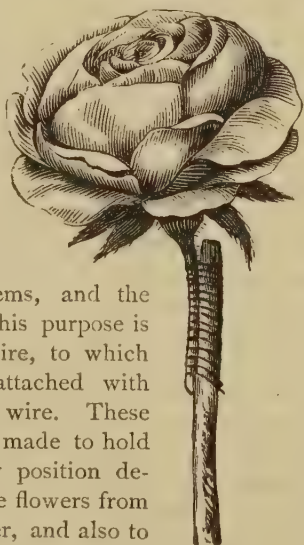
BOUQUET MAKING.

DEAR SIR :—Cannot you give in an early number of your floral MAGAZINE, instructions for making bouquets of different shapes when the flowers are stemmed. Also instruction in making cuttings for propagating, and as to the time they should be struck for winter blooming in the green-house, including the most valuable kind for flowers in winter. I suggest the above, thinking that it would interest many of the readers of your valuable MAGAZINE, and it certainly would the subscriber.—T. W., Cleveland, Ohio.



Arranging flowers loosely and prettily and naturally in vases and other ornamental receptacles for flowers, is a very easy work, requiring only good taste and some knowledge of the harmony of colors. As a rule ladies do this work well, and need no suggestions from us. The filling of baskets is a little more difficult, because more formal or artificial. First, line the basket with tin foil, or scatter a little *Lycopodium* or other green material, to form a kind of green lining, and over this put a lining of strong paper. If the basket is not so open as to show the lining, a simple lining of paper will be enough. Then fill the basket with damp saw-dust, rounding it off at the top and covering with damp moss, inserting the stems of the flowers in the moss. If the natural stems are not suitable for this work the flowers can be "stemmed," that is, fastened to small pieces of wood or broom splints. It is well to give an

edging or border mainly of green. Very few flowers have stems suitable for nice bouquet work, so it is the custom to "stem" all flowers, that is, give them artificial stems, and the material used for this purpose is broom brush or wire, to which the flowers are attached with spool cotton or fine wire. These stiff stems can be made to hold the flowers in any position desired. To keep the flowers from crowding each other, and also to supply moisture, it is usual to wind damp moss around the stem of the flower at its connection with the artificial stem. The central flower, which is usually the largest, must have a stiff, straight stem, as seen in the engraving, for this really forms the back-bone of the bouquet, as well as the handle. Fasten



the stems of all the flowers around this central flower, as in the small engraving of a bouquet, as it would appear divided near the middle, showing the way the flowers are fastened to the main stem, as well as the manner in which they are kept from crowding each other. After the flowers are all properly attached, and the bou-



SECTION OF HAND BOUQUET.

quet formed, cut off the handle to the desired length and cover this with tin foil, or wind it with ribbon, leaving a loop, so that the bouquet may be suspended if desired.

Ornamental papers, prepared for the purpose, are very pretty, and can be obtained at a small price of most florists. These cover the handle and bottom of the bouquet, and also usually



BOUQUET PAPER.

make a quite ornamental border. Our remarks are, of course, designed for hand bouquets, but larger bouquets are made in the same manner, except that they are more pyramidal in form.

To make a cutting is not a difficult work. The only point is to secure wood in just the right condition. If it is too young it may decay, and if too hard it does not emit roots freely. A little experience is the best guide. Cuttings may be placed in a damp, cool place for a few days, in moist cloths or sponge, until a callous is formed, which will be in four or five days. Then pot them in sand, where they will root much better than in earth. If a cutting of a soft-wooded plant, like a Geranium, does not snap when doubled, it is too old for a good cutting. Mr. HENDERSON, in his *Practical Floriculture*, advises as follows: "In propagating woody plants, such as Roses, Azaleas, Daphnes, etc., this test of breaking or snapping does not apply, although all these will root, if taken in the same way; yet we find it enfeebles their growth more than if the cutting is allowed to get harder. What this degree of hardness is, it is difficult to describe; in Roses

it assumes the proper degree of hardness when the shoot develops the flower-bud. But, although we do not take Rose cuttings in the same succulent condition as we would a Fuchsia or a Verbena, it must not be imagined that it is necessary to make the cutting at a joint.

A plan called the "Saucer system" is excellent for the amateur. It is so called because saucers or plates are used to hold the sand in which the cuttings are placed. This sand is put in to the depth of an inch or so, and the



cuttings inserted in it close enough to touch each other; the sand is then watered until it becomes in the condition of mud, and placed on the shelf of the green-house, or in the window-sill of the sitting-room or parlor, fully exposed to the sun, and never shaded. But one condition is essential to success,—until the cuttings become rooted the sand must be kept *continually saturated*, and kept in the condition of mud; if once allowed to dry up, exposed to the sun as they are, the cuttings will quickly wilt, and the whole operation be defeated."

In addition to the bulbs already noticed in this number, and others that we shall speak of in our next, we would suggest the following as valuable winter flowers: Bouvardia, Carnation, Begonia, Abutilon, Ageratum, Fuchsia, Stevia, Eupatorium, Daisies, Jasmine, Chinese Primrose, Sweet Alyssum.

What is a Rogue?—Is it something quite different from what it ought to be—as a weed instead of a flower? For instance, if I sow seed purporting to be double dwarf, camellia-flowered, spotted Balsam, and they turn out to be single and plain, would they be rogues? Or, if blue Pansies come purple, would they be rogues? Or, if I sow Japan Pinks and raise a crop of Larkspurs, would they be rogues?—A DUNCE.

Having used the term in the MAGAZINE, it is well that we should explain. What is called a "*Rogue*" among seed growers is something entirely different from what was expected, like tares among the wheat, a tall variety of Peas among the dwarfs, or an Aster among the Pansies. As there always is some uncertainty about plants from the seeds, such slight variations as a blue Pansy where a purple one was expected, would not be called a rogue, but a not uncommon variation. The Larkspur among the Pinks would certainly be a rogue.

HYDRANGEA PANICULATA GRANDIFLORA.

In the September number, in answer to a lady of Holyoke, Massachusetts, we spoke of the winter treatment of Hydrangea, meaning the tender *H. Hortense*. This caused some to think that they had been deceived in purchasing what was advertised to be a hardy Hydrangea. We are glad to say that the *H. paniculata grandiflora* is all that it has been recommended to be, and is perfectly hardy, and wonderfully handsome.

This hardy Hydrangea is the most useful plant that has been introduced for years—at



least so we thought this morning when looking at a large plant in flower; and when viewing a bed of small plants not much more than six inches in height, yet bearing bunches of flowers larger than all the other parts of the plant, we felt quite sure of the fact. It is so vigorous and hardy, and so beautiful that it will soon become popular. WM. C. HART, of Walden, N. Y., writes:—"The first year I planted the *Hydrangea paniculata* it produced three heads of flowers, the second year fifty-six, and the third year ninety-two. Thorough cultivation and a pail of liquid manure once a week helped the plant to bear this enormous load of flowers." A plant three years of age bearing such a number of clusters of flowers, from six to twelve inches in diameter, is a wonder.

THE EYE.—Flowers cultivate the eye, and these familiar with flowers are the best possible judges of color.—In answering the inquiries of correspondents we give, and design to give, as far as possible, all the illustrations necessary to make everything plain.

CALENDULA.

MR. VICK :—There has been much said by our Doctor and other learned men as to *Calendula*, or the old garden Marigold. They say there is none of it in this



country. Now, you have it in all your Catalogues that I have from 1874 to the present year. I refer it to you, believing you are good authority. Please answer in the next MAGAZINE.—A. H., *Beaver Dam, Wis.*

We have the common Garden Marigold, *Calendula officinalis*. It is grown in some of the country gardens in this vicinity, and is occasionally found growing by the country road-sides. There would be no difficulty in obtaining seed enough to plant a farm.

Border of Bulbs.—Please state in the MAGAZINE if a border of early flowering bulbs would be likely to do well along the sides of a gravel walk over a lawn? What preparation of the bed is necessary, and what are the best varieties of bulbous flowering plants, with culture.—E. O. KNOX, *Cuyahoga Falls, O.*

Almost any hardy bulbs would succeed, planted in a border on the sides of a gravel walk. It would, of course, be necessary to have a margin of good soil for them to grow in, but the roots of bulbs do not extend far, or deep, and this would not be difficult. The Crocus makes a very pretty low border; flowers early, but soon passes out of bloom. Several varieties of low-growing Tulips are admirable for this work. Hyacinths would be pretty, but are somewhat expensive—about \$12.00 a hundred.

PLANTS FOR SHADE.—Few plants will bear intense shade. In dense natural woods the ground is almost bare, while when the trees have been partially cleared off, abundance of plants will soon make their appearance. Most of the climbers like a little shade, because it is their nature to climb the trunks of trees, where, of course, they must be somewhat shaded by the overhanging branches. All the Ferns prefer shade. Many of our house plants, like the Fuchsia, Geraniums, &c., do admirably in the open ground if shaded from the mid-day sun. Among the annuals, the Pansy, Clarkia, Mimulus, Myosotis and Whitlavia bear a moderate amount of shade.

Club-Root—Lentils.—Is there any remedy for what is known as Club-root in Cabbage? What are Red Lentils?—such as Miss CORSON speaks of in her fifteen-cent dinners.—L. A. C., *Linckleau Center, N. Y.*

Club-root is caused by the sting of an insect. The best preventive is the free use of lime and phosphate manures. There are several varieties of Lentils, and they are used pretty freely in Europe in soups, and are no better, to our notion, than split peas, also commonly used for the same purpose. The plants grow about eighteen inches in height, and require about the same treatment as Peas. Sow in drills, in May.

Narcissus.—Last winter I saw some very nice Narcissus flowering in the house, in clusters, and very fragrant. The flowers were of two colors, having an inside cup darker than the rest of the flower. When should they be planted, and what treatment?—MRS. M. J. D.

The Narcissus that flowers in clusters is called the Polyanthus Narcissus, and it is excellent for the house. Plant bulbs any time in the autumn. The treatment required is about as for Hyacinths. In our next we will tell more about the Narcissus.

Water Lilies.—Are what is known as Water Lilies, the *Nymphaeas* and *Nelumbiums*, really Lilies? I ask this question, not for my own information, but for others. Should we not be known by our own names?—*NYMPHÆA*.

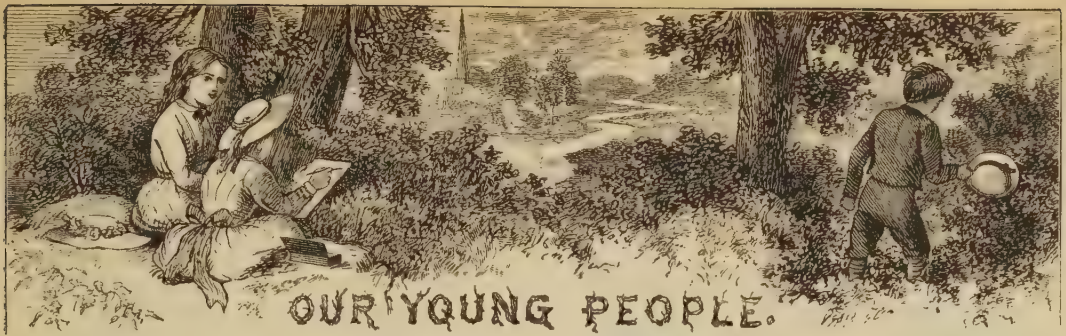
The Water Lilies, so called, are not really Lilies, any more than the *Funkia*, known as the Day Lily, is a Lily. A dozen kinds called Lilies are not classed as Lilies by botanical rules.

Canna Seed.—I have on my Cannas this year some seed that seems to be ripe. How shall I keep it—in the pods, or cleaned, and do you think it will grow? I have never before had seed that looked ripe, and none that would grow.—J. B.

As soon as the seed is well ripened, gather it, clean from the husk, and store in a dry place.

CALADIUM FLOWERS.—The Caladium does not often flower in Northern States, but THOS. CLARK, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, writes :—"I have three Caladiums. One has had a beautiful buff lily, and has two more buds. One, I think, will open in about a week and the other later. The largest leaf is thirty-seven inches in length and twenty-five inches across, and it has five leaves, the smallest being twenty-five inches. It is rare to have them bloom here. The flower is like a Calla, only the pistil is white and the sheath a beautiful transparent buff color, like the shade of Thunbergia."

NATIVE FLOWERS AND FERNS.—A serial publication, called the *Native Flowers and Ferns of the United States*, has been commenced by PRANG & Co., of Boston, to be completed in twenty-four parts. It is edited by THOMAS MEEHAN, of Philadelphia, which is a sufficient surety that the work will be well done.



BOTANY FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

In presenting the accompanying illustrations of the Wallflower and Honesty, it is not to submit their claims as desirable garden plants, for these are already established in the minds of all flower cultivators and, therefore, on this account do not require a word in their favor; they are now offered as types or representatives of a large and interesting family of plants. A glance at the face of the flowers, figures 86, 91 and 92, shows that the petals, four in number, are arranged in the form of a cross; from this circumstance the order or family has received the name *Cruciferae*, meaning cross-bearers. The common English name is Mustard family, because Mustard, an article everywhere in com-



Fig. 86. Wallflower (*Cheiranthus Cheiri*.)

mon use, is produced from the seeds, or rather, is the powdered or ground seeds of a kind of *Sinapis*, a member of this order. It would be quite as appropriate to call these plants the Cross-bearers, or the Cross-bearing Family.

The calyx of a cruciferous flower consists of four sepals. The stamens are six in number, four of them being of equal length and the two others shorter; the four long stamens stand together in pairs, and the two shorter ones on opposite sides of the four long ones, as shown at fig. 88. By reference to the engravings of the flowers cut vertically, figs. 87 and 93, it



Fig. 87. Wallflower cut vertically.

will be seen that the calyx, the corolla, and the stamens are situated or attached below the ovary, or, in a word, they are *inferior*, while the ovary is *superior*. The pistil of the Wallflower is shown enlarged, at fig. 90, bearing two stigmas upon its summit. The ovary is formed of two carpellary leaves so joined that there is a partition through the center; the ripened ovary, which is the fruit or the seed-vessel, is called a *siliqua* or *siliqua*, and appears as shown at fig. 89, having a valve on each side of the partition to which the seeds are attached. The seed-pods of *Lunaria*, fig. 91, are quite different in shape from those of the Wallflower, though the essential formation is the same. The flowers are produced in a raceme, which lengthens as the flowers fall away and the fruit forms. All the cruciferous flowers are singularly alike in their general appearance, and the acquaintance we now make of these two typical flowers will enable us at any time hereafter to readily recognise the family at sight.

The cruciferous flower apparently violates the rule that has been previously stated in reference to the symmetry of flowers, or their arrangement on a strict numerical plan, for we perceive

that while the sepals and petals agree in number, four of each, the stamens are at variance with this rule, as there are six of them. Now this case, which appears not to conform to the general rule, is not considered at all to disagree with it, but is an example of the variety that may be produced under the operation of the same general law; the explanation is, that the two pairs of long stamens stand in the place of two stamens,—that each pair represents one stamen: or, in other words, that two stamens are doubled, each one forming a pair. Thus we may perceive clearly the orderly conduct of this apparent violator of law, and discover it to be a good loyal subject, only disposed to do things in its own peculiar way, yet in strict accordance with the great general law. Other modes of apparent deviation from this law while in real conformity with it are to be noticed in the flowers of other orders, but it is not our purpose now to pursue this subject.



Fig. 88. Wallflower, Stamens and Pistil.



Fig. 89. Wallflower's Seed-vessel. This property is said to be very efficient as a preventive and

cure of the scurvy, and from this circumstance this family of plants has acquired the name of *Antiscorbutics*. The acrid principle pervades more or less all parts of the plants,—leaves, roots and seeds.

The Cabbage is an important member of this family, and by sports under cultivation is supposed to have given rise to varieties such as Cauliflower, Kail, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, &c. These are all of the same genus and species as the Cabbage,—*Brassica oleracea*. The Turnip and the Rutabaga, so valuable for their fleshy roots, and the Colza or Rape, cultivated for the oil of its seed, are varieties of another species of *Brassica*,—*Brassica campestris*. As we previously noticed, the Mustard, Radish and Horse Radish are found in this family, as also are the Nasturtium, called Water Cress, and several species called Cress, Marsh Cress, Water



Fig. 90. Wallflower, Pistil.

Cress, &c., which are cultivated, or gathered from the places where they grow naturally, and eaten as condiments or salads. *Crambe tartarica* grows on the sandy plains of Hungary and Moravia, and has a large fleshy root commonly called Tartar bread, which is eaten either raw or cooked. The seeds of *Camelina sativa* yield an oil used for burning. Woad, (*Isatis tinctoria*), is a plant belonging to this family which has long been cultivated in Europe, and to some extent in this country, for a blue dye that is extracted from its leaves. As indigo is much



Fig. 91. Honesty (*Lunaria biennis*.)

cheaper than the dye obtained from Woad, the cultivation of this plant has nearly ceased, although it is still continued to a limited extent for domestic dying, as the color is said to be much more enduring than that from indigo. The earliest nations, the Celts and Picts, of western Europe and the British Islands, used the dye from Woad to paint their bodies, to ornament them on great occasions of war and state and in their religious ceremonies. From this cause blue came to be a national color of France and Great Britain, and from them has naturally descended to us who "cheer for the red, white and blue."

Among plants cultivated for ornament the Mustard family contributes besides those now illustrated, the Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) and its varieties, the Ten-Weeks Stock (*Mathiola annua*), the Brompton Stock (*Mathiola incana*), the Virginia Stock (*Malcomia mariti-*

ma,) two or three species of *Erysimum*, Alpine Rock-cress (*Arabis alpina*) and its varieties, Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*), which by cultivation has sported into a number of beautiful varieties, Sweet Alyssum (*Alyssum maritimum*), Rock Alyssum (*Alyssum saxatile*) and its several varieties, and other kinds of less importance. The Mustard family also furnishes some troublesome weeds, among



Fig. 92. Lunaria.
Single Flower.

which are the Hedge Mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*), Wild Mustard or Charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*), and the Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella Bursa-pastoris*), which appears to grow almost everywhere—in fields, gardens and door-yards—and may be immediately recognized by any one, by its triangular, heart-shaped little seed-pods.



Fig. 93. Lunaria. Flower
cut vertically.

A very curious cruciferous plant is one which grows in sandy places in the countries about the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea,—Syria, Arabia and Egypt—and commonly called the Rose of Jericho. The botanical name of



Fig. 94. Rose of Jericho, (dry.)

this plant is *Anastatica hierochuntica*. The name *Anastatica* is derived from a Greek word meaning resurrection, and its name has been given to it because after it is dead and withered it will resume its original shape, if placed in water, or even exposed to dampness for a short time. The dry plant with its branches curved

inward, assumes an oval or almost spherical form, and driven by the winds, it rolls across the plains for great distances, scattering its seeds as it travels. In its dry state it is sold in Europe and also in this country as a

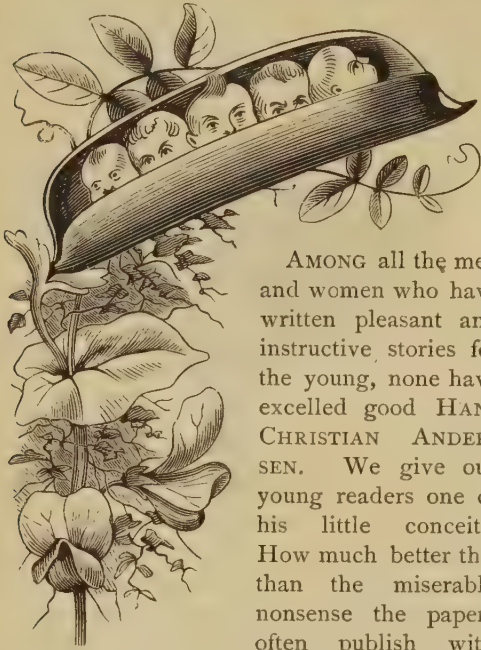


Fig. 95. Rose of Jericho, (moist.)

curiosity. There is a superstition connected with this plant that the flower expands yearly on the day and hour of Christ's birth. This is not the plant commonly sold in this country as the Resurrection Plant, and which has been received from Lower California. The California Resurrection plant is *Selaginella lepidophylla*, and has for its common name, Birds Nest Moss.

ABOUT FLOWERS.

MR. VICK:—In one of the numbers of your MAGAZINE a farmer's boy tells how he grew melons, and a very good way, too, judging by his success. Let me tell you how I grow flowers, and I do it because I think the information may be of service to some of your readers. I think not more than half the flower seeds I have planted grew, and thus my gardening, though affording some pleasure, caused also a good deal of annoyance. My first plan was to wait until May, and then sow the seeds just where I wanted the plants to flower. The result was that about half failed to grow, and the beds were ragged and uneven. The second plan was to make a little bed in the garden and sow the seeds in this bed, and transplant to the proper places as fast as the plants became large enough. This was better and my flower beds looked well; still I lost a good many, and usually the most delicate and best. My third and present plan is to make a nice mellow bed in the garden, in some sunny, sheltered place, surround it with a board frame or box, and cover this box with with two old sashes, so that my box is just the size of a window. Now I lose no seed. I take off the glass on very warm and sunny days, and put it on nights. When I am afraid the sun will burn the plants I throw a little dust on the glass.—FARMER'S DAUGHTER.



AMONG all the men and women who have written pleasant and instructive stories for the young, none have excelled good HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. We give our young readers one of his little conceits. How much better this than the miserable nonsense the papers often publish with

such frightful titles as *The Pirate's Den*, none of which ever did any good to anybody, and often do a good deal of harm.

FIVE IN A PEA-SHELL.

Five peas sat in a pea-shell. They were green and the shells were green; therefore they thought the whole world was green,—in which opinion they were about right. The shell grew and the peas grew too. They could accommodate themselves very well to their narrow house, and sat very happily together, all five in a row. The sun shone outside and warmed the shell; the rain made it so clear you could see through it. It was warm and pleasant in there, clear by day and dark by night, just as it should be. The five peas grew very fast, and became more intelligent the older they were.

"Shall I always be compelled to sit here?" said one of the peas. "I really am afraid that I shall get hard from sitting constantly. I do believe strange things are going on outside of our shell as well as in here."

Weeks passed on, and the peas became yellow, and the shell grew yellow too. "All the world is yellow!" said they. And we cannot blame them, under the circumstances, for the exclamation.

One day the house was struck as if by lightning. They were torn off by somebody's hand, and were put into a coat pocket which had been nearly filled with peas.

"Now there is going to be an end to us," they sighed to one another, and began to prepare themselves for the change. "But, if we

live, I would like to hear from the one who goes the furthest."

"It will soon be over with us," said the smallest; but the largest one replied, "Let come what will, I am ready."

Knock! the shell burst, and all five rolled out in the bright sunshine. Soon they lay in a little boy's hand. He held them fast, and said they would be excellent for his little gun. Almost immediately they were rolled down the barrel of his shot-gun. Out again they went into the wide world.

"Now I am flying out into the world! Catch me if you can!" So said one and he was very soon out of sight.

The second one said: "I am going to fly up into the sun. He is a charming shell, and will be just about large enough for me," and off he flew.

"Wherever we go, we are going to bed," said two others. And they hit the roof of a great stone house, and rolled down on the ground.

"I am going to make the best of my lot," said the last one. And it went high up, but it came down against the balcony window of an old house, and caught there in a little tuft of moss. The moss closed up, and there lay the pea. Everybody seemed to forget that little pea, but not so; God remembered it well.

"I shall make the best of my lot," it said, as it lay there. A poor woman lived in the room back of the balcony window. She spent the whole day in making little toys of wood and shell, which was her way of getting a little money. In that little room lived her half-grown, delicate daughter. A whole year she had been living there, and it seemed as if she could neither live nor die.

"She will soon go off to see her little sister," sighed her mother. "I had two dear children, and it was a difficult task for me to take care of both of them; but the Lord made a compromise by taking one to live with him. Now, I would like to keep this one to live with me, but it appears as if God wants them both with him. Soon she will go and see her sister!"

But the sick girl still lived and lay patiently on her sick bed, while her mother worked with her hands for their daily bread.

By and by spring-time came on. One morning the sick girl looked down at the bottom of the window, and saw something growing.

"What kind of a weed is that?" she said. "It is going to grow against our window. See! the wind is shaking it!"

And the mother came to the window and opened it a little. "Just see!" she exclaimed; "that is a splendid pea-vine; it is now shoot-

ing out its green leaves. How it likes the little crevice! Soon we will have a garden!"

Then the sick girl's bed was moved close to the window, so that she could see the little climbing pea. Then her mother went to her work again.

"Mother, I really believe I shall get well again," said the daughter to her mother.

How happy she was as she sat in the bright sunshine and looked at the growing pea-vine! The window was open and the morning breeze came skipping in. The girl leaned her head out of the window and kissed her vine. That day was a happy holiday to her.

"The good Father in heaven, my dear child, has planted that little flowering pea there for you, and also to bring hope and joy to my heart." So spoke the mother, and truly, too.

Now what became of the other peas? The one which flew out into the wide world, and said, as he passed, "Catch me if you can," fell into the gutter and was swallowed by a dove.

The two which went off together fared no better, for they were both devoured by the hungry pigeons.

The fourth pea, which went off toward the sun, didn't get half way there, but fell into a water-spout, and lay there for weeks, growing larger every time.

"I am getting so corpulent," it said one day, "I shall soon burst, I am afraid; and that certainly will be the last of me."

And the chimney, who afterwards wrote his epitaph, told me a few days ago that he did burst. So that was the last of him.

But the sick girl stood, one day, with bright eyes and red cheeks, at her mother's little window, and, folding her hands over the beautiful pea-vine, thanked her Heavenly Father for his goodness.

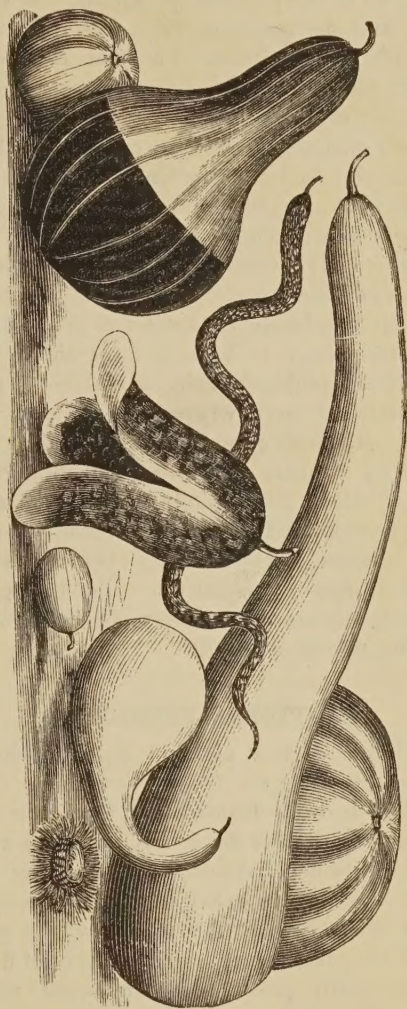
"I am proud of my vine," said the widow. And so said all the world.

ORNAMENTAL GOURDS.

There isn't much to make one's mouth water in a Gourd, but though not as good eating as a plate full of Melons, I don't know anything more curious, and few things much prettier than a good dish of Gourds. They are of almost every form you can think of—like Oranges, Pears, Apples, Cucumbers and Snakes, and some like nothing in the world but themselves. I have about ten kinds running over and covering a fence, and if there is any fence anywhere covered with vines that is any prettier, I would go a good way to see it. I send you several, just to let you see how nice they are—though, of course, you know. Had you not better tell the people about them, and I guess they will plant some next year.—A SCHOOL BOY.

We give representations of a few of the more common Gourds, and in a future number will describe and illustrate some new and curious specimens. We have in cultivation more than

a dozen kinds from Japan, some of which are new but mostly proved to be old familiar sorts.



House Cherry.—Is the little branch I send you a piece of what is sometimes called Jerusalem Cherry, or House Cherry, a very pretty little plant we had once. I found this growing in a vegetable garden, and begged a piece to send you.—AMY.



The specimen sent us is not the old Jerusalem Cherry, but the Cherry Pepper, which is grown in gardens for its pungent red berries. It is, however, a very pretty plant, both in foliage and fruit, as will be seen by the engraving.

JUDGES AT FAIRS.

The Judges at our Fairs hold responsible, and by no means pleasant positions. If competent and disinterested, they will, of course, do justice to Exhibitors, but that Exhibitors will be pleased with their decisions is by no means certain. We are very apt to magnify the good qualities of what we own, or of those we love, and to look very leniently upon their imperfections. The beam in our own eye is not very large; indeed, it is no beam at all, scarcely a mote; while the motes that trouble the eyes of other people are wonderfully large motes, in fact, beams of wonderful proportions.

We must learn to look at these things impartially and philosophically, and strive to give the reward of merit wherever it honestly belongs. It is both good mental and moral discipline to compare our own productions with those of others, say a single flower, and after due reflection and examination compel poor, selfish nature's assent to a just decision, though it may be against us. Try this plan, and keep trying, until judgment has proved an entire master over self.

OUR FLORAL PREMIUMS.

We have received pleasant reports from all sections regarding our Floral Premiums. The following is from Kansas:—"Our Fair was held from September 4th to the 7th, and was in all respects a decided success. None of the classes, however, equaled, in point of rivalry, display or excitement, the one in which your Special Premiums were. The display of flowers was really grand, and embraced many classes and varieties. It has awakened an interest never known here before; it has stimulated many to grow flowers where before grew rank weeds, and pig pens were most prominent. The contest was hot and spirited, and doubtless you will receive several letters of inquiry as regards the kind of arrangement, &c., of the flowers exhibited, and who can and cannot be entitled to the Premiums. The Committee to whom the decision lay acted calmly, wisely, and, I think, judiciously."

OUR PUBLICATIONS.—Besides this MAGAZINE we publish VICK'S FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN, an elegant work, with lots of illustrations, and six beautiful colored plates—five of Flowers and one of Vegetables. It is a book of 170 pages. Price 50 cents in paper covers, \$1.00 bound in cloth. An *Illustrated Catalogue*, with hundreds of engravings, and 70 pages of reading; sent to all who apply, enclosing a two or three cent stamp for postage.

LOST NUMBERS.—The numbers of the MAGAZINE are mailed regularly as issued to every subscriber. The names are all printed, and it is almost impossible to omit one, as we use the Dick system, by which each name is printed on a slip of paper and transferred from this to the MAGAZINE by a new and very ingenious machine, the Star Mailer, invented by Rev. ALEX. DICK, of Buffalo, N. Y., and this new instrument will do twice the work of any other machine we have ever used, while it is lighter and far easier to the operator. Losses, however, will occasionally occur in the mails, and while we regret this, we can suggest no other remedy than this—drop us a postal card stating which number you desire, and we will send another copy immediately.

AUTUMN CATALOGUE OF BULBS.—Vick's *Illustrated Catalogue and Floral Guide* is now published twice a year, the 1st of December, and the 15th of August. The August number contains descriptions of the best *Hyacinths*, *Tulips*, *Lilies*, *Pæonies*, and all hardy bulbs and plants suitable for planting in the garden in the fall. Also descriptions of all plants suitable for winter culture in the house, with the best modes of treatment, and instructions for watering, ventilation, etc. Scores of illustrations. All for the postage, a two cent stamp. Those who wish a good show of bulbs in their gardens in the spring, or good flowers in their houses in the winter, must prepare for them in the autumn.

CLUBS.—Additions of one or more can be made to clubs at any time, at club rates. Those who have paid \$1.25 can form a club of four more, and have the benefit of club rates for all, by sending \$3.75 more. Club subscribers are not confined to one post-office. We will send the MAGAZINE anywhere in the world.

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